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'Restrictions' on Yugoslav Border To Be Removed

AU0504182290 Sofia BTA in English 1446 GMT 5 Apr 90

["Some Restrictions on Western Border Removed"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers adopted a decree by which it removes the border zone and the engineering and technical appliances on the border with Yugoslavia.

As from April 6, 1990 the stage by stage dismantling of these appliances will begin, first in an immediate proximity to the control border check points, populated areas and in the regions of active agricultural work, and then along the whole Bulgaro-Yugoslavian border. Thus the necessity of permits drops out, which is in the spirit of international agreements from the Final Act of the Vienna meeting.

The decree plans the shifting of the engineering and technical appliances at the southern border so as no populated areas between these appliances and the state border line are left.

Dismantling at Border Begins

AU0604100890 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Marksim Raynov report from Kalotina border checkpoint on Bulgarian-Yugoslav border—recorded]

[Text] A group of journalists, myself included, had the opportunity of inspecting and taking pictures of the engineering-technical border installations near the village of Kalotina, after which a news conference was held on the spot.

Major Vasil Stanoev and Colonel [name indistinct] Georgi (?Mindarev) from the Border Guards Administration partipated. They explained that the dismantling of installations is beginning simultaneously in eight sections along our western borders today. The existing fences along 459 km of our 563-km-long border with Yugoslavia are to be removed.

Maj. Vasil Dimitrov was the one who gave the instructions to the engineering unit, and the soldiers began removing the three-meter-high nets. Following this, several [word indistinct], cranes, and bulldozers went into operation.

Let us say a few words about the stages in which the operation that began today is expected to be completed. The operation will proceed in two stages: In the first stage, expected to be completed by 30 May 1990, the installations around the border checkpoints and close to inhabited settlements, especially in the areas of arable land, are expected to be removed. The final removal of the installations is expected to take place by the end of September 1990. The removal of engineering-technical installations does not mean that control over the border will diminish. On the contrary, modern technical appliances will be used from now on, such as infrared rays [word indistinct], and others. As a result of the dismantling of the installations, the population living near the border will obtain free access to a total of 153,000 decares of arable land, while the materials of the technical-engineering installations that are removed will be sold.

Official Forecasts Fall in Exports to USSR

AU0504135090 Sofia BTA in English 1248 GMT 5 Apr 90

["Bulgaria's Traditional Partners"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—Bulgaria's exports to the Soviet Union will decrease by more than 800 million roubles, announced Krustyu Popov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations, in an interview held with DUMA.

The two countries' trade in 1990 will come up to about 12 milliard roubles. Despite the difficulties the Soviet economy faces, the USSR is expected to export raw materials, fuel and consumer goods to Bulgaria to the tune of 3.1 milliard roubles' worth. In excess of the two countries' long-term trade agreement, the Soviet Union will supply machines for the light and the food industry, machine tools, tractors, road-construction equipment, etc., but will decrease its exports of passenger cars to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria will decrease her exports to the Soviet Union by 70 thousand tons of sterilized vegetable preserves, 75 thousand bottles of wine and 11 thousand tons of tobacco.

In Mr. Popov's view, at the moment Bulgaria's trade with the Soviet Union has actually no other alternative.

Bulgaria's trade with her other partners, the accounts with which are settled in roubles (the East European countries, Cuba, Mongolia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Albania) is expected to exceed 3.5 milliard roubles this year.

At the end of last year Bulgaria's overall balance of payment with these countries (the USSR included) has a surplus of more than 300 million roubles resulting from Bulgaria's export surplus with the USSR amounting to half a million roubles' worth accrued at the end of last year. The export surplus with the USSR is expected to be settled by the end of this year.

At the same time Bulgaria's balance of payments with the GDR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania is passive. Compared with 1989, the balance with Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia has worsened, which hinders the normal realization of mutual deliveries, including services as transit through their territories and tourism.

It is pointed out in the interview that the possibility is being negotiated with the USSR for settling accounts under a currency clearing at the beginning of the next five-year period and then a switch to effective payment in convertible currency.

The specialists of Hungary and Poland insist on switching to effective payments in convertible currency at current international prices in 1991 without any intermediary stages.

In conclusion Mr. Krustyu Popov underlined that if the Bulgarian companies are to keep their position in the East European market, they should export products competitive in every aspect.

Lev Devalued Against CSSR Koruna

AU0504182790 Sofia BTA in English
1533 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 6 (BTA)—As from today the course of the Bulgarian lev to the Czech crone [koruna] is devaluated after mutual agreement, TRUD writes. The Bulgarian citizens will buy a 100 Czech crones for 12.50 leva instead of 10 leva as it had been till now.

Bulgaria denounces the GDR demand for a change of the course of the mark to the lev.

As from January 30 Hungary has not been selling forints to Bulgaria, on the basis of the existing imbalance in goods exchange between the two countries, in which Bulgaria has a passive balance, the daily writes, on the basis of information from the Bulgarian National Bank.

Lukanov Meets Delors, Others in Brussels

AU0504210790 Sofia BTA in English
1918 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—The chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers Andrey Lukanov was today on a working visit to the Belgian capital city.

He had a meeting with Mr. Jacques Delors, chairman of the Commission of the EC. Mr. Frans Andriessen, deputy chairman of the commission, responsible for its foreign relations, trade policy and relations with the European countries non-members of the Community, participated in the meeting.

During the talk, which lasted more than 45 minutes, the sides considered a wide range of issues concerning relations between Bulgaria and the organization.

The interlocutors marked with satisfaction the signing of an agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the EC and Bulgaria. An opinion was expressed that after the endorsement of the agreement two days ago, there are now possibilities for its signing next month.

The role of the group of the 24 countries was discussed for rendering of international support to reforms in Bulgaria. The Bulgarian side outlined the expectations for the group collaboration in a short- and longer-term plan.

The Commission of the European Community expressed support to the country's efforts to become a member of the International Monetary Fund, of the World Bank for Restoration and Development and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Attention was drawn at the state and future of the CMEA [CEMA]. Both sides expressed the opinion that the termination of this organization's existence would not be good either for its members or for the whole of Europe.

After the meeting Jacques Delors told BTA journalists that he now has a much clearer picture about the state and issues which Bulgaria faces today.

The leader of the Commission of the EC stressed the importance of the agreement between the organization and Bulgaria for trade and economic cooperation in the strengthening of bilateral relations. These relations, as well as relations between Bulgaria and the West in general will, according to him, be able to develop and deepen now and in future in two directions. Firstly—on a bilateral basis, through the use of the agreement with the Common Market, and secondly on a bilateral basis, through general actions along the line of the group of the 24.

Jacques Delors also stressed that in future relations between the Common Market and Bulgaria can acquire new forms like the country's association to the Community.

After the meeting the Bulgarian prime minister spoke at the international press centre.

"Relations between Bulgaria and the European Community are making a vital turning point in the positive direction," he said.

The Bulgarian prime minister said that the country is making great efforts to come out of the crisis. He also added: "It is quite obvious that it is hardly possible, I would even say it is impossible, to carry reforms at such a scale and to maintain socio-economic stability alone, without an international assistance."

In reply to questions Andrey Lukanov outlined the most important trends for the fulfillment of the agreement between Bulgaria and the European Community.

As far as the expected support of the group of the 24 went, he said that at the moment, the fulfilment of about 25 joint projects is expected. Most of them are in the sphere of agriculture and the foodstuffs industry, but there are also some in the sphere of infrastructure, transport and telecommunications.

Lukanov expressed hopes that relations will go to the financial and economic sphere, too.

[Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian at 1930 GMT on 5 April, after reporting Lukanov's visit to Brussels, adds: "Later Andrey Lukanov departed for Bulgaria"]

Mladenov Says Road to Europe 'Complicated'

AU0504144890 Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian 4 Apr 90 p 1

[Report on interview with Bulgarian President Petur Mladenov by Valentin Kolev in Sofia on 2 April: "We Can't Manage Without the Youth"]

[Text] Minutes after the National Assembly had concluded its work, we approached Petur Mladenov, the first Bulgarian president, in order to congratulate him on his new post and wish him success in his difficult mission. However, we could not restrain ourselves from also asking questions:

[Kolev] Comrade Mladenov, with what feelings do you accept this post?

[Mladenov] I assume this post sensing the great responsibility that is placed on my shoulders and, as I had the opportunity to say in my brief speech, I will do everything possible to fulfill my obligations within the framework of the Constitution and the laws in force in Bulgaria.

[Kolev] What will your first steps be as president?

[Mladenov] The first steps are connected with the elections. As early as 3 April, a decree must be drafted setting the date for free and democratic elections. After this, I will hold consultations with the leaders of the political parties and forces concerning our future work to guarantee truly peaceful and free elections, which will bring us much closer to that toward which we are striving.

[Kolev] Will the road toward Europe be difficult?

[Mladenov] The road to Europe is complicated, but we have the strength to travel along it. No one can say how many years will be needed. However, I think that with the efforts of the ruling parties and the opposition, the new parliament, and the people we should be able to overcome the most serious problems in a few years. Afterward, much will be required of us. There will be much for us to do in order to draw level with developed Europe.

[Kolev] What would you like to wish the young people and the Bulgarian citizens?

[Mladenov] Happiness, good health, and that they will work in the name of Bulgaria, for the success and prosperity of our native land. As for the young people, Bulgaria relies on them and will continue to do so, not only because it is the accepted thing to say that the future belongs to them, but also because this is true. No reform, no major transition can be achieved by us without the young; they are the motivating force behind the changes. Accordingly, I wish them many successes. Let them know that they carry right now the immense responsibility for the sort of country that Bulgaria will become in a few years.

[Kolev] How are we to address you in the future, for you have been elected as chairman (president) of Bulgaria, is that not so?

[Mladenov] Let everyone address me as he wishes; the form of address is not so important.

[Kolev] Thank you, and we once again wish you success!

Zhivkov's Son-in-Law Released on Bail

AU0504194390 Sofia BTA in English 1827 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—Mr. Ivan Slavkov, Todor Zhivkov's son-in-law and president of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee, was released on a 1,000 leva bail today after a 44-day remand in custody for an ongoing investigation.

The speakers at a second rally in support of Mr. Slavkov held today approved of the Prosecutor General's Office decision to grant bail and called for an impartial investigation of the case.

Zhivkov Inquiry To Be Extended

AU0604074890 Sofia BTA in English 0720 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 6 (BTA)—The Chief Public Prosecutor of the Republic Evtim Stoimenov has told yesterday [5 April] a representative of DUMA that it is possible that the term of inquiry against Todor Zhivkov's case be extended after May 18. A lot of documentation still remains to be considered, and work on the inquiry material has not even been half-done.

Evtim Stoimenov said that journalists will not be allowed, at least in the near time, to meet Zhivkov, which is to the interest of the inquiry.

New Opposition Bloc Established

AU0604093590 Sofia BTA in English 0815 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 6 (BTA)—The new oppositional bloc, a United People's Union was formed late last night. It embraces 9 parties and movements: Bulgarian Democratic-Constitutional Party, Bulgarian Agrarian Party "Vrabcha-1", Bulgarian People's Party, Bulgarian Fatherland Party, Bulgarian Christian Democratic Party-Center, the "Prosvetlenie" Association, the Club of the Adherents of the Turnovo Constitution, National Democratic Workers Party and the All-National Democratic Union "Era-3". A constituent conference was convened on the initiative of the Independent Association for Protection of Human Rights (with a headquarters in the town of Septemvri).

The declaration adopted today stresses that the participants in the United People's Union do not recognize the SDS [UDF—Union of Democratic Forces] as an effective opposition and that the agreements signed by it do not reflect and do not protect the interests of all democratic forces in this country. With the establishemnt of the new bloc the aim is to create a real oppositional force in Bulgaria. The United People's Union will participate directly in the future democratic elections and remains open to all political forces, which will back its program.

Opposition Agrarian Party Board Approves Merger

AU0504181190 Sofia BTA in English
1701 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—The Managing Board of the "Nikola Petkov" BZNS [Bulgarian National Agrarian Union] adopted today at a session, an agreement for the unity between the two agrarian parties, reached by the contact groups.

"It is the turn of the BZNS Managing Board to confirm tomorrow the agreement," Milan Drenchev, the general secretary of the "Nikola Petkov" BZNS, said.

Marxist Alternative Denies Forming New Party

AU0504193990 Sofia BTA in English
1825 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—Rumours of the last days that a new communist party will be founded in this country, were denied today. In spite of reservations concerning the renaming of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] into a Bulgarian Socialist Party, the movement "Marxist Alternative" will continue to act in the frameworks of the Socialist Party but only until the elections or till the moment when the BCP leadership will turn the latter into social reformers party, it was stressed at a meeting of the movement's activists.

"Marxist Alternative" sees in the face of about a third of the former BCP composition (over 980,000 people) its potential members. This is based on the fact that over 90,000 people have said "no" to the change of the BCP name while another 250,000 have not voted at all.

The movement stands for the strengthening of the unity of the left democratic forces in the country, for the unity of all forces in the Bulgarian Socialist Party, including the ideological flows, in the name of overcoming Bulgaria's slipping towards a capitalist way of development.

"Marxist Alternative" stands for a radical reform of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, including through the adoption of everything positive from Western social democracy.

New Fatherland Union 'Against Confrontation'

AU0504201090 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT
in Bulgarian 4 Apr 90 p 1

[Article by Lyuben Genov: "Front Against Confrontation"]

[Excerpts] First of all, concerning the new name of Fatherland Union: The abandoning of the word "front" was a historically inevitable, but difficult, decision. Indeed, for a long time the Fatherland Front, as a structure and an official policy, formed the largest mass support for a party, for an instrument of power, and for the election successes. However, thousands of activists in the organization performed useful and necessary work over a rich human spectrum, ranging from attention to the smallest joy or pain to the most serious problems in the town district or village. During the congress, it was suggested that this was mere charity work. However, the force of tradition is extremely strong and, drawing its energy from some unknown source, it will continue its fruitless efforts to reject the organization, as indeed happened in the neighborhood of the Congress Hall. When the delegates heard an announcement that at the national roundtable Ivaylo Trifonov, Union of Democratic Forces [UDF] representative, had read a declaration issued by some unknown People's Front of Party Nonmembers, the hall exploded with emotion. The declaration called for the dissolution of the Fatherland Front, confiscation of its property, and the dismissal of its delegation from the national roundtable talks, to be replaced by nonmembers of parties. A further demand, made almost in the form of an ultimatum, was that the OTECHESTVEN FRONT daily also should be closed down, and its property also sequestered. Let us once again remind ourselves that this was not April Fool's Day—even in the darkest years of the totalitarian regime, our leaders did not permit themselves to make such black jokes.

I have not witnessed such excitement for a very long time—even at the UDF rallies. If for various reasons hesitation had prevailed concerning the future prospects for the organization, this declaration united the delegates to such an extent that it is now difficult for anyone to unsettle them in their conviction of the necessity of the decisions adopted. [passage omitted]

The participation of Andrey Lukanov, who had been invited by the delegates to speak on the government's policy, left a lasting impression. His tolerance and ability to express even the most bitter truths, without offense or mumbo jumbo, and to base himself on constructive ideas, is of particular importance for consolidating society and, hence, for resolving society's problems. If I now see any meaning in the word "front," it is because I see it as a front against hatred and confrontation. [passage omitted]

The new Statute of the Fatherland Union states that all may be members of the organization who accept its platform, irrespective of their party, political, or religious affiliation. The union is also a medium for the social and civic expression of people who are members of no party. The members of the Fatherland Union are united by their supraparty interests, such as the dozens of problems that exist at people's places of residence.

At the same time, the Fatherland Union strives to communicate with the representatives of the various political and social forces (although this may be a difficult task at the moment, and not because of the union's fault). The fact that joint actions already exist in Svishtov, Plovdiv, and Stara Zagora proves the likelihood of success in this aspiration. A prejudiced view also exists that the Fatherland Union is highly likely to want to assimilate or counteract the activity of others in the interest of a single party. This is long since an idea of the past.

The organization supports a philosophy of forbearance, of tolerance of different opinions, and of civilized behavior in relations with others. In this aspiration, its own activists also have a thing or two to overcome in themselves, and something to learn. Many moments in the congress sessions were reminiscent more of a court trial than of constructive discussion. However, we clearly need time here as well. [passage omitted]

Cooperative Farms Union Opens Congress

AU0504201290 Sofia BTA in English
1759 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Plovdiv, April 5 (BTA corr.)—The constituent congress of the Cooperative Farms Union was opened today with the participation of some 1,000 agricultural farms, some of which have already united in regional unions.

As a production unit in the conditions of a market economy the cooperative farms should function fully independently and dispose of all its means by using them according to its own interest and decisions. The farms should not be a branch in the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, nor in the structure of another state organization. It is necessary that they be managed solely by the statute and resolutions of the general meeting, while observing the country's acting normative and legislative acts, it was said at the congress.

The problems were discussed related to land privatization and the statute of the union member. As conditions for the rapid development of the cooperative unions were numbered the dropping of the state orders, the eradication of the monopoly of purchasing organizations and legalization of free market economic relations in agriculture.

The speakers backed the setting up of the union and stressed that it should not turn into an administrative and bureaucratic structure but into a really voluntary, professional and independent organization based on the federative principle.

New Farmworkers Union Holds First Congress

AU0504210690 Sofia Domestic Service
in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The constituent congress of the Independent Trade Union of Farm Workers is continuing in Sofia. Taking part are 684 delegates from 2,365 primary trade union organizations.

The basic provisions of the union's statute and platform, which have just been approved, were set out in a speech made by the union's provisional leader, (Indi Karnisov): independence from political parties and organizations, and a high degree of democratization of structures. In order to achieve the goals set by the union, one can see the use of such trade-union means as defending positions and claims, holding meetings and rallies, and, as a last result, resorting to strikes.

The delegates insisted on including in the platform their demands to defend the diversity of forms of ownership. In the conditions of the transition to a market economy, the abolition of jobs must necessarily be accompanied by programs to provide employment for the workers made redundant. It is proposed to ensure, not in words but by deeds, the priority development of agriculture.

At the moment, the union's leading bodies are being elected. It has been decided that the union will join the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria.

Zhulev Sees Tourism Way Out of Economic Crisis

AU0504200390 Sofia BTA in English
1755 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (BTA)—The national economy will prioritize tourism, Mr. Stoyan Zhulev, chairman of the Committee for Tourism with the Council of Ministers, told a news conference here today. A new economic model has been elaborated for that industry, based on several basic principles: guaranteed equal share of all forms of ownership in the tourist industry; privatization of the property and a switchover to a shareholding form of ownership; separation of the functions of the state from the functions of economic management, which will be performed by the companies themselves; and building a market-oriented and economically justified structure of organisation and management. The ultimate idea is to boost the quality of services and the efficiency of the industry.

Mr. Stoyan Zhulev pointed out that this model of a priority development of tourism is part of the government's economic crisis management programme and will be laid down in a decree which is being drafted by the Council of Ministers.

The Committee for Tourism at the Council of Ministers was established on April 2, 1990, and replaced the Bulgarian Association of Tourism and Recreation which functioned as a public-cum-state body implementing a single state policy in tourism. Mr. Stoyan Zhulev emphasized that the policy which he will pursue in his capacity as chairman of the committee will encourage private enterprise on a priority basis. A number of incentives are planned to this end but they will be linked directly with the efficiency and the quality of the available tourist services. The Committee for Tourism will implement the national state policy in the field of tourism but it will have no economic functions and will not carry out economic activity.

Mr. Stoyan Zhulev said that last year the tourist industry brought in nearly 350 million leva and 180 million dollars. In the pre-10th of November period the national economic priorities were identified as mechanical engineering, ferrous metallurgy and the chemical industry and the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] and government documents practically ignored the development of tourism.

Trade Minister Outlines Future Market

AU0604105790 Sofia VECHERNI NOVINI in Bulgarian 4 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Trade and Services Minister Ekaterina Marinova by Nadya Kantareva; place and date not given: "The Government Will Not Permit the Problems to Turn Into Social Dramas"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Marinova] The severe deficit, the imbalances between goods and the money held by the population, and the social unrest—these are serious problems. In order to solve them, the ministry has prepared specific regulations as part of the government program for economic reform in trade and services. These are based on forming joint stock companies for trade and everyday services, expanding leasehold, and privatizing smaller businesses. Of course, the free setting of prices for 18 groups of goods and certain everyday service activities provides a further economic condition.

[Kantareva] From what you say, one understands that the aim is to revive the market and ensure that the producer has an interest in producing goods. However, surely there will be little satisfaction that goods are available if the Bulgarian consumer has to dig deep into his far-from-bottomless pocket?

[Marinova] Please understand that free price setting does not necessarily mean a rise in prices and economic freedom for the producers. Don't expect that tomorrow there will be a general stock taking and marking up of prices. I repeat, the producers will determine the value of their products according to demand and production costs. [passage omitted]

[Kantareva] Are you counting on the same result in the services sector?

[Marinova] In our present situation, services form a blank area. Decree No. 56 is in its second year of operation, yet of the thousands of private firms only a few have directed their attention toward domestic services. I am convinced that the new economic solutions will attract many people to this sphere as well. If we add the fact that the Council of Ministers has halved taxation and allowed free determination of wages in trade and services, I expect a substantial change in the situation. [passage omitted]

[Kantareva] Minister Marinova, now that the state has abolished subsidies for the production of children's clothing and footwear, naturally the prices of these articles will increase sharply. I realize that this lies within the powers of your colleague, but the people will come up against these details at the shop counters, and their first reaction will be directed against the traders.

[Marinova] This is perhaps the most sensitive social topic, and it gives me no peace. It is stated in the anticrisis program that children's goods will be among those for which subsidies will be removed. These subsidies will be reallocated as family allowances. The state budget will look for compensation for these allowances because prices will not stand still. The government will not permit the problem to turn into a social drama, but the same is also true of the other problems that we face at present.

I hold the view that it is only by employing economic levers that we can ensure that the producers have the right and obligation to increase the production of children's goods, which is at present many times less than what is needed. [passage omitted]

Chief Mufti Discusses Muslims' Problems

AU0304092290 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 28 Mar 90 pp 1,2

[Interview with Dr. Nedyu Gendzhev, chief mufti of the Muslims in the nation, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO reporters Mara Georgieva and Dora Kostadinova; place and date not given: "Sins Are Forgiven in Ramadan"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on meaning of Ramadan] [RABOTNICHESKO DELO] Are the Bulgarian Muslims encountering difficulties in fulfilling their religious duties?

[Gendzhev] I have not received any such information. Before 10 November 1989, a considerable number of mosques were closed, while others functioned only on Friday. Now there are many requests from believers for the restoration of ruined mosques, and we are insisting that the relevant municipal councils do what is necessary to achieve this end.

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO] What other problems do the Bulgarian Muslims face today?

[Gendzhev] The most difficulties are being suffered by some of those who have returned from Turkey. The municipal people's councils must display greater responsiveness toward the housing needs of these people. I appeal to the commission on social problems under the Council of Ministers, which is chaired by Nora Ananieva, to take their problems a little more to heart.

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO] Last week you returned from a visit to the Muslim holy places of Mecca and Medina. What was the reason for your visit?

[Gendzhev] I visited the holy city of Mecca at the invitation of Dr. 'Abdallah 'Umar Nasif, secretary of the World Islamic League. We discussed the possibilities for closer cooperation. We are expecting that the World Islamic League will allocate some money for the repair and restoration of our large mosques of architectural and historical value. We were promised that a certain number of copies of the Koran would be sent to us, because we have no facilities in Bulgaria for printing it, as well as other literature for those learning to read and study the Koran. We hope to receive assistance in setting up a Muslim religious school in Sofia. We also discussed student grants for our young people to study in certain Muslim universities.

Reasons for Newspaper's Name Change

AU0504131090 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 4 Apr 90 p 1

[Unsigned report: "The Most Widely Read Daily in our Country Has Changed its Name"]

[Text] Sofia, 4 April—As of today our most widely read daily RABOTNICHESKO DELO is called DUMA. This coincides with the change of the Bulgarian Communist Party's name, which has already become the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP].

Considering the new sociopolitical conditions and the party's social universalization, the name RABOTNICHESKO DELO no longer conforms with our time, editor in chief Stefan Prodev thinks. This name is restricted to a specific social class and recalls an era that has long since been relegated to the past.

DUMA is a short and concise name, and it evokes symbols that are close to the hearts of all Bulgarian people. It reminds us of Botev's DUMA, which our journalists seen to have forgotten. In addition to this, it sounds unpretentious and noncommittal, permitting greater professional freedom.

It is the aspiration of our editorial board to assert new professional ideas in our daily, to introduce a much more democratic spirit, and to transform the newspaper into an objective, social tribune of nationwide importance. The trend of placing greater emphasis on information will be pursued, while the new press body will try to get rid of grossly biased opinions and avoid publishing materials that are too closely related to party organizational matters.

One of the most difficult tasks will be to reduce the length of extensive political articles, Stefan Prodev points out.

Explosion Delays Soviet Troop Withdrawal

LD0404154690 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1330 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Ministry of National Defense has reported that this morning the withdrawal of Soviet troops by rail transport was delayed because of an explosion of an unidentified object thrown from a moving train. No one was injured. In order that the incident could be investigated the transportation was stopped in the Kysak train station. The investigation is being carried out by the military district prosecutor general in Presov in cooperation with public security, the armed protection of railways' administration, organs of military transportation, and representatives of the Soviet Army.

Two Railway Employees Escape Injury

LD0604014290 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Before the weather forecast, here is an item explaining in more detail our report yesterday, repeated verbatim later, about the train which was delayed at Kysak station. Our editor Jaroslav Velir phoned this report:

[Begin Velir recording] According to information available so far, a paper explosive device [papierovy delobuch] was thrown from a military train carrying Soviet troops onto the track between Vitkovce and Chrast nad Hornadom [east Slovakia]. The device exploded near two employees of the railway maintenance and hygiene station, Anna Benkova and Maria Sedlakova, who were measuring noise and dust levels on the track. After the incident, the military train was stopped during the morning at the railway station in Kysak until 1900. Fortunately, neither of the women was injured, and as Michal Spak, head of the Kosice railway district, told me, while they are aware of the matter, they are not registering it as an emergency incident. [end recording]

Soviet Munitions Temporarily Stored in Kvetna

LD0504124890 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Summary] Kvetna near Svitavy is becoming a central munitions store for the withdrawing Soviet forces from which the armaments will gradually be transported to the Soviet Union. The munitions are sorted and stored in Kvetna and will definitely be removed in a year's time providing Czechoslovak railways can load an average of 10 freight cars per day.

Paper Warns of Soviet Intervention in Lithuania

LD0504113190 Prague CTK in English 0808 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 5 (CTK)—"Should we wait till clashes with casualties are provoked, till Moscow has a pretext for a regular intervention as we know it from August 1968?" Today's daily LIDOVE NOVINY asks in its commentary comparing Moscow's policy towards Lithuania with the Munich dictate against Czechoslovakia in 1938. [punctuation as received]

Mistakes are being searched again rather in a small nation than on the side of a much bigger opponent, similarly as in the case of Czechoslovakia in 1938. Today's attitude is not only immoral but above all short-sighted, the daily stressed.

The world does not want to see the reality, the daily said and rejected the opinion that by an intervention it would make the position of Mikhail Gorbachev unmaintainable and risk his removal by the conservative wing. By being silent on Moscow's intensifying pressure on Lithuania the world helps neither Mikhail Gorbachev, nor perestroika despite the claims of those calling for restraint, Lidove Noviny stressed.

Lithuanian President Thankful for Havel Support

AU0504102890

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech on 2 April on page 3 carries a 700-word article by David Vondracek entitled "Midnight Call on the President." In the article Vondracek, who is a reporter of the youth periodical MLADY SVET [Young World], describes his encounter with the Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis in the parliament building in Vilnius on 31 March at night. As the author explains, he is one of the few journalists who did not have to leave the Lithuanian capital last week because "fortunately, I am not officially accredited in the Soviet Union." According to Vondracek, his conversation with Landsbergis, "which lasted only a few minutes," concerned mostly the Lithuanian president's reaction to President Havel's offer to mediate between the Soviet Union and Lithuania: "In the conversation, the president did not spare words of praise for our president, who was the first to offer the soil of his country for negotiations between Lithuania and the Soviet Union." Landsbergis reportedly also handed over to the Czech journalist the following text of his reply to President Havel's message of 29 March: "Mr. President, your words of support for Lithuania's effort to achieve freedom is very significant. I accept with joy and great gratitude your proposal to organize talks between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Lithuania in the beautiful and hospitable country of Czechoslovakia. You were the first state representative to suggest this. Lithuania will never forget it. Yours, Vytautas Landsbergis."

FRG Border Obstacles, Signal Posts Dismantled

LD0504175490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1330 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] By today, wire obstacles and signal posts have been removed from an approximately 30-kilometers-long section of Czechoslovak-FRG state border near Domazlice. Three working groups from the

Domazlice border troops are scrapping about 2-3 kilometers per day. Two interception posts, located 100 kilometers apart on the border, have also been dismantled.

CEMA Official: 'Unity Will Be Preserved'

LD0504182790 Prague CTK in English 1755 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Moscow April 5 (CTK correspondent)—Deputy Secretary of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) Ladislav Gerle today expressed the conviction that the CEMA unity will be preserved.

Replying to the question at a press conference here today whether several measures taken by the Czechoslovak Government do not mean the country's first step to withdraw from CEMA, Ladislav Gerle said that Czechoslovakia does not want to quit.

These measures are aimed at removing what impeded effective cooperation. The Czechoslovak Government maybe took these steps more quickly and earlier than other CEMA member states, he added.

Havel Names Juraj Kralik Ambassador to UN

LD0504214490 Prague CTK in English 1442 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 5 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel named Juraj Kralik Czechoslovakia's ambassador and permanent representative at the United Nations and other Geneva-based international organizations, and recalled Vratislav Vajnar from this post.

Slovak Premier Cic, Austria's Mock Hold Talks

LD0604015990 Prague CTK in English 1725 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Vienna April 5 (CTK Correspondent)—Slovak Premier Milan Cic, who is on a three-day working visit to Austria, today acquainted Austrian foreign Minister Alois Mock with the political, economic and cultural situation in Czechoslovakia and the country's stands on the most topical international issues.

He explained to him in detail the stands of the Slovak Government on the federative setup in Czechoslovakia as well as nationality questions that are solved in Slovakia at present.

Milan Cic told CTK that the talks focused on the possibilities of further intensification of cooperation between the two countries in all spheres.

The Slovak premier has met with Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk for talks on the development of contacts betwen Vienna and Bratislava. Also discussed were questions of extending and speeding up the connection between the two cities, Bratislava's participation in preparations for the World Exhibition Expo 35, the two cities' cultural cooperation and a number of other issues. Present at the meeting was also Bratislava Mayor Roman Hofbauer.

Protest in Prague Over CPCZ Property 5 Apr

LD0504113690 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Demands for compensation for the damage resulting from the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia's [CPCZ] policy are now being heard more and more often. The presidium of our largest trade union association—the metal workers trade union organization, which has about 1,500,000 members—does not agree with the slow and inconsistent discussion of this issue in the Federal Assembly. It has therefore called upon its primary organizations to support the appeal of the CKD Polovodice [semiconductors] for a warning general strike on 11 April from 1150 to 1200.

Today at 1600 [1400 GMT] at Old Town Square in Prague there will be a rally demanding the return of the CPCZ property to the state organized by the CKD Polovodice Civic Forum in cooperation with the Civic Forum Coordination Committee.

Demonstrators Demand CPCZ Give Up Property

LD0504201290 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Hundreds of Prague citizens and visitors to Prague gathered at Staromestske Square this afternoon at a rally, the aim and course of which is reported by Alena Muellerova:

[Begin Muellerova recording] Its participants expressed their support for a recent appeal by the Civic Forum of the CKD Semiconductor Works which demands that the CPCZ [Czechoslovak Communist Party] hand over its property to the Government of National Understanding and to the country's citizens. This is also called for on banners held by participants in the rally, and this demand was voiced in all speeches. The rally was addressed from the balcony above Staromestska restaurant, for instance, by actress Milada Dvorska. There are representatives of the independent trade unions here as well as representatives of the Confederation of Art and Culture, Pavlina Filipovska and Karel Stedry; and representatives of the Confederation of Political Prisoners of Czechoslovakia, (Vaclav Pindejz), (Jiri Mesicky), and many others.

The appeal by the Civic Forum of the CKD Semiconductor Works addressed to the CPCZ included a proclamation of a 10-minute token strike during which work will be halted from 1150 to 1200 on Wednesday, 11 April, and which offers an opportunity to our working people to support the above quoted demands put forward by the CKD Semiconductor Works and the coordination center of Civic Forum. Over 700 enterprises have already reacted to the appeal, mostly from the Czech lands, but also from Slovakia, and others certainly will still react, all those whose wish is that the CPCZ enter the election campaign as a party equal with others in all aspects. [end recording]

CPCZ Central Committee Relocating

AU0504131190 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 3 Apr 90 p 1

["zr"-signed report: "Joint Statement on the Relocation of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee"]

[Excerpt] Prague—The chief editors of HOSPODARSKE NOVINY, ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY, VECERNI PRAHA, SVOBODA, RUDE PRAVO, TVORBA, KVETY, the weekly ROZHLAS, the CVZ magazine, and the weekly CZECHOSLOVAK TELEVISION had a meeting with Ondrej Saling, secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee, and Petr Rosecky, head of the CPCZ Central Committee Economic Department, in Prague on Monday [2 April]. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the DELTA publishing house, the RUDE PRAVO publishing house, and the Typografie printing plant.

The participants in the meeting noted that the CPCZ's decision to move its Central Committee to the complex of buildings for journalists in Prague-Florenc is neither a suitable nor an acceptable solution. The CPCZ Central Committee representatives said that originally this plan arose out of the impossibility of finding any other solution and that it was regarded as an emergency solution from the beginning. They announced that they do not insist on this decision and are willing to relocate the CPCZ staff into any other building assigned to it by the Prague City National Committee. One such possibility would be the building of the Central Directorate of the Czechoslovak State Railroads at No. 9 Political Prisoners' Street, which is about to move to the CPCZ Central Committee's current building.

All participants in the meeting endorsed this solution and said that they will acquaint their editorial staffs with it as well as the public, the Syndicate of Journalists, and the Civic Forum. They also asked the Prague City National Committee for a speedy solution so that the building in Prague-Florenc can serve the purpose for which it was built as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Report on Constituent Congress of Czech CP

AU0504100090 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 2 Apr 90 pp 1,2

[Nada Adamickova, Vlastimil Bradac, Dalibor Macha, Vaclav Marek, Vaclav Pergl, Igor Sirota report: "Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia Founded"]

[Excerpts] Prague (from our correspondent)— The constituent congress of the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia [Komunisticka strana Cech a Moravy] (KSCM) was held in the building of the Political College of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] Central Committee in Prague on 31 March. The new territorial organization of the CPCZ in the Czech Republic, which is an integral part of the CPCZ, has the same status as the Communist Party of Slovakia. Jiri Machalik was elected chairman of the KSCM.

The congress was opened by CPCZ Chairman Ladislav Adamec. The point of gravity of the KSCM's activity, he said, will be in its participation in the further development of Czech statehood and in its contribution to the development of society, education, and culture, to the modernization of the economy, and to the solution of ecological problems with harmony between national and social interests. (The full text of the speech is published on pages 3 and 4.)

In the debate which followed, several dozen delegates and guests took the floor. Some of them tried to lay bare the causes of the party's crisis, others—and these were in the majority—were looking to the future, pondering how to work at the local level, what to do in the pre-election period, and how to continue the party's renewal. [passage omitted]

Otakar Jezek Liberec proposed that the discussion on democratic centralism be wound up because this concept is no longer valid today. The principle must be, he said, that every organization should be competent to make decisions, with the superior body merely coordinating activities. Decisions by higher-level bodies should not be completely binding for lower-level bodies. [passage omitted]

Michal Houdek Plzen expressed the view that the party has not yet purged itself. In the regions and districts in particular, former local "Napoleons" remain in the CPCZ. It is according to them that the party as a whole is being evaluated. As a result, many upright members are leaving the party, whose credit among the public is low. This is why differentiation is inevitable—on the one hand, by means of polarization of views and various currents of thought, but on the other, if necessary, also by "revolutionary means," i.e. by splitting the party. The Stalinists would then stay in the CPCZ and the democratic majority would establish a new party. [passage omitted]

Frantisek Adamek (secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee) emphasized the right of the minority to its own view and the right of CPCZ members to terminate their membership in the party of their own free will. He demanded that the term faction and the place of factions in party life be defined. [passage omitted]

Let us stop being preoccupied with ourselves and let us assume our place in the broad civic movement. That is the main prerequisite of the party's viability, said Josef Kasuba, political spokesman for the Democratic Forum of Communists. History teaches us that reform forces never prevailed in the party. Today they must prevail. [passage omitted] Rostislav Hakl said that the Democratic Forum of Communists is an independent current of thought representing democratic forces in the communist party. This platform is open to all valuable ideas, no matter who proclaims them. A closed ideology is a thing of the past and the same goes for pure materialism, democratic centralism, dictatorship of the proletariat, and class struggle. [passage omitted]

The congress was greeted by Peter Weiss, chairman of the Communist Party of Slovakia Executive Committee. He described the founding of the KSCM as a natural expression of reality. The existence of two sovereign and equal national republics that decided to voluntarily join forces in a federation makes it necessary for members of the CPCZ in both these republics to operate as a national political force taking account of the specifics of the political spectrum, social structures, traditions, and national interests. He welcomed the congress as bringing to a definite end the CPCZ's asymmetrical organizational structure and as proof that this party is energetically getting rid of the remnants of Czechoslovakism.

He expressed concern at attempts to kindle chauvinist and nationalist passions. You will probably agree with me, he said, when I say that the CPCZ has no interest in gaining political capital from flirtation with sacred national feelings. [passage omitted]

The congress elected a 101-member KSCM Central Committee. Of them, 85 were elected by open ballot on the basis of recommendations of regional and district conferences. [passage omitted] An additional 15 members were elected by secret ballot. [passage omitted] The KSCM chairman is the 101st member of the Central Committee.

Five comrades were put forward as candidates for the post of KSCM chairman, four of whom gave up their candidacy. Jiri Machalik was then elected chairman of the KSCM by secret ballot.

The congress elected a 21-member KSCM Control and Auditing Commission. Marie Sobova was elected as its chairwoman (in the second round).

The [subsequent] first session of the KSCM Central Committee elected an Executive Committee. Zdenka Tesarova, Frantisek Adamek, and Josef Kasuba were elected secretaries out of six candidates (three gave up their candidacy).

A joint session of the KSCM Central Committee and of CPCZ Central Committee members from the Czech Republic then approved the nomination of CPCZ candidates for deputies to the Federal Assembly and the Czech National Council. [passage omitted]

News Conference Reviews Semtex Production Plans

LD0504224690 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Today's news conference in the Vychodoceske Chemicke Zavody Syntesia works [East Bohemian Chemical Works] in Pardubice attracted great interest, especially among foreign correspondents in Czechoslovakia.

Its agenda was the misuse of the Semtex plastic explosive, which is often mentioned in connection with the explosion of the U.S. plane over Lockerbie at the end of 1988. Jiri Novotny, the factory's director, said that the export of this explosive to the sphere of freely convertible currencies had ended in 1981 and to other territories last year. An eventual renewal of exporting the explosive for commercial purposes is not being considered. At the same time, it would be mistaken to halt its production for use in Czechoslovakia.

A Czechoslovak-British initiative aimed at specific steps against the misuse of explosives for terrorist purposes was also discussed at the press conference. Our state released 7 million korunas for research into marking the explosive, and this task will be concluded this year.

Civic Forum Defends Activist Oldrich Hromadko

LD0404214890 Prague CTK in English 1724 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 4 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior has given materials to CTK about forced labor camps in this country in the 1940's-50's as well as documents on activities of a police officer who was in charge of a unit ensuring external protection of the camps at Jachymov, West Bohemia, and now is a Civic Forum activist.

The documents also comprised a report on appointing Oldrich Hromadko to this post and his own report on using a gun against two prisoners who were shot dead in 1950 while trying to escape.

In reference to this information, the Civic Forum coordinating center told CTK that it considers the whole affair to be an attack on it and on Oldrich Hromadko, Charter 77 signatory since December 1976. Hromadko was an active participant in civic initiatives of the 1970's and 1980's. Since February 1990 he has been member of the Civic Forum coordinating center where he is in charge of a security commission. At the same time he is member of a screening commission at the Federal Ministry of the Interior which demands and is preparing a radical purge at this ministry. The Civic Forum coordinating center said.

It pointed out that the same information provided now by the interior ministry was used against Mr. Hromadko already after August 1968 when he was a chief of an operating group of Interior Minister Josef Pavel and, together with him, had to leave his post at the ministry under Soviet pressure. In a trial which followed his guilt was not proved.

The Civic Forum further pointed out it had put its trust in him and evaluated his resolute attitude toward revealing repressive practices of the former regime and those who used them at the Ministry of the Interior, the Civic Forum coordinating center concluded.

Sacher Investigation Draws Protest

LD0504193190 Prague CTK in English 1853 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 5 (CTK)—Civil members of the screening commission of the Federal Ministry of the Interior expressed surprise here today at the fact that Federal Interior Minister Richard Sacher opened sealed Interior Ministry archives just in the case of Chairman of the Central Civic Commission of the Civic Forum Coordinating Center Oldrich Hromadko.

In their statement they also wondered that he had acquainted CTK with documents concerning Hromadko's case.

As Oldrich Hromadko told CTK yesterday he had lodged a complaint with the prosecutor-general of the Czech republic against an unidentified person for false accusation and libel.

Hromadko stated he had been in charge of the external protection of the forced labour camps at Jachymov until August 1950 when he was transferred to the border guards.

The documents comprised a report on appointing him to this post and his own report on using a gun against two prisoners who were shot dead in 1950 while trying to escape.

The members of the screening commission claimed that the attack on Hromadko is in fact a challenge to the concept of a consistent purge at the Federal Ministry of the Interior he is pursuing and a dangerous precedent for the misuse of Federal Interior Ministry archives for a political struggle for power.

Trade Unionists Demand Partnership Role

LD0504231190 Prague CTK in English 1914 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 5 (CTK)—The General Council of the Czechoslovak Confederation of Trade Unions met here today at its third session, which focused on the dissatisfaction of membership with the work of the federal government, mainly with its ways of adopting laws concerning social certainties of the working people.

Despite the fact that the session is already for the second time held behind closed doors, with representatives of the mass media not being invited, several trade union representatives complained about the lack of information on developments in trade unions especially in the daily press.

Representatives of the Czechoslovak Confederation of Trade Unions, and of the Independent Slovak Trade Unions and the Confederation of Art and Culture who were invited as guests then submitted their statement to the federal government.

"The government ignores the principle of partnership in the questions that concern substantial interests of the working people of our country. Drafts for legal regulations that have direct impact on social and working conditions of citizens must be discussed with trade union representatives beforehand", the statement stressed.

The trade unions further demand that the federal government propose a date of a joint meeting with representatives of trade union organizations and insist that this meeting should take place by April 15 at the latest. At the same time they pointed out that they will appeal to trade unionists to declare a strike alert in support of these demands and in case these demands are not met to call a token general strike on April 18.

The Confederation President Igor Pleskot informed the General Council of the talks with the Presidium of the Federal Government. He conveyed the presidium's surprise at the stand of trade unionists and its explanation that the situation was caused by the fact that debates on several bills took place at the time when the new trade unions had not yet been established.

The Presidium of the Czechoslovak Government welcomed, however, the possibility of cooperation and proposed trade unionists to join legislative commissions elaborating laws.

Trade Union Council Appeals for Unity

LD0504231390 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1800 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The General Council of the Czechoslovak Confederation of Trade Unions today approved an appeal to the trade unionists of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia, in which it states that due to the unfortunate legacy of the past, there is now, more than at any other time, a need for unity of our nations and ethnic minorities. The key question for all is the correct understanding and forming of the Czech and Slovak statehoods. The General Council supports the demands of recognizing the full sovereignty and independence of the nations of our country, which should be uniformly expressed also in the name of the state. They fully support naming the country —the Czech and Slovak Republic.

Timetable for Price Adjustments Outlined

AU0504131290 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 29 Mar 90 p 2

[Interview with Eng. Kamil Mikulic, first deputy director of the Federal Price Office (FCU), by Bratislava PRAVDA correspondent Marta Csontosova in Prague on 28 March: "How the Federal Price Office Intends To Deal With the Retail Price Problem: It Will Begin With Travel Fares..."]

[Text] [Csontosova] What problem does the FCU [Federal Price Office] intend to address by a price reform?

[Mikulic] It wants to remove the negative turnover tax; i.e., remove the subsidies of retail prices of food, rent, transport, energy, and construction materials. That is, of course, not all; our main purpose is to form a rational system of prices, a flexible and effective system of prices as a significant functional element of the market mechanism. The final goal of the price reform is actually the liberalization of prices.

[Csontosova] How will you go about it?

[Mikulic] We submit to the federal government materials wherein we propose realizing the retail price reform in such a manner that it would be completed by 1993. Prices of cigarettes and tobacco products should be increased in the first stage (as of 7 May 90), and a decline in prices of selected electrical consumer goods should materialize at the same time. The second half of this year should see increases in the price of basic food products, cereal goods, pastries, confectioneries, nonperishable baker's goods, cut beef, veal, mutton, as well as other meat products and canned meat. Two scenarios are being considered with these food products. One would reduce the meat subsidies from the state budget by 4.2 billion korunas; the other by 3.3 billion. Therefore, it is too early to speak of the price increases in specific kinds of basic food.

[Csontosova] You spoke only of food. What is going to happen to fares?

[Mikulic] According to our proposals, the travel fare adjustment should take place before this half-year is over—railway fares should increase by 100 percent, and fares on CSAD [Czechoslovak National Freight and Bus Transport] buses by 10 percent. For the next half-year we envisage increases in the price of solid fuels. Prices of imported consumer goods and retail prices set by contracts will rise continually throughout the period.

[Csontosova] Did your office recommend any other measures in the price area for the near future?

[Mikulic] We envisage some increments, but also some declines in prices of selected industrial products in the second half-year, and in 1991 an increase in municipal public transport fares, in prices of further food products, and construction materials. Prices of selected industrial wares should go down.

[Csontosova] People talk a lot about higher costs for rent, heating, hydroelectric power, and sewage.

[Mikulic] Rent increases averaging about 200 korunas per family are proposed for 1 January 1992, and other housing-related costs, which you correctly listed, will also increase. The price of water should increase by 40 percent and sewage by 80 percent.

Government Debates Economic, Social Issues

News Conference Summary

LD0504232490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The Federal Government met in Prague today. Jana Havligerova reports on today's news conference at the Government Presidium Office:

[Havligerova] Today's deliberations can be assessed, above all, in terms of talking about economic reform. However, before I start talking about it, I have to tell you two more important things: The government received representatives of the Confederation of Trade Unions and accepted their demand—namely that a representative of trade unions should take part in every session of the federal government as an observer, and that trade unions might have access also to those government organs where the prepared laws are being discussed.

Deputy Federal Premier Josef Hromadka spoke at a press conference following the session about safeguarding the visit of Pope John Paul II to Czechoslovakia. The preparations are proceeding well. In Prague, Velehrad, and Bratislava, however, it will be necessary to find several thousand officials from the ranks of the Czechoslovak Army and the Ministry of the Interior, because, for example, on the Letna Plain and in its vicinity, it is assumed that over 1 million people will be present.

And now to the economy: Those who intend to work in private enterprise with a maximum of 200 employees will no doubt be interested that the minimum guaranteed monthly wages should be 1,300-3,000 korunas.

But this is a marginal point. No doubt the most important legal norm which was discussed by the government today is the amendment to the bill on economic relations with foreign countries. Andrej Barcak, minister of foreign trade, said the following:

[Begin Barcak recording] The debated amendment to Law No.42 is based on approximately the following principles: It makes it possible for all subjects, that is Czechoslovak persons, to carry out foreign trade activity, on the basis of registration. All subjects, that is also production enterprises, can enter foreign trade activity on the basis of registration with their own goods. Our own goods are specified as goods where added value, which, unfortunately has not been legally stipulated—that is, items and calculations such as profit, costs, overheads—exceeds 30 percent of the price of the product. In these cases, for the purposes of foreign trade activity, registration according to the conditions of the law is sufficient. In all the other cases, one must have a permission for foreign trade activity. At the same time, imports for intrinsic needs of organizations or enterprises which will carry out foreign trade activity, are being freed. We are introducing a unified registration of all the subjects entering foreign trade activity, although their activity is being permitted by a different department, rather than foreign trade.

The law also contains a stipulation concerning representation of foreign countries in Czechoslovakia, where, to start, a mere registration is sufficient—namely representation in the sense of an office or branch, not that for foreign trade activity. Otherwise, for foreign subjects, foreign trade activity will continue to be subject to permission. Concerning regulation measures, only three spheres will be at the disposal of the ministry, namely the generally valid instruments, customs and licenses—licenses through which sales, and in some cases also purchases of selected items, will be safeguarded for the domestic market and the needs of our economy. [end recording]

Wages, Pensions, Dam Project Discussed

LD0504232390 Prague CTK in English 1843 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 5 (CTK)—Bills on cooperatives, private businesses, rises in pensions and the controversial Czechoslovak-Hungarian Danube dams project were on the agenda of a session of the Czechoslovak Federal Government today.

The government approved a bill amending the law on housing, consumer, producer and other cooperatives, ridding this sphere of adminstrative management and creating scope for freedom of enterprise. A bill on agricultural cooperatives will be discussed in the coming weeks.

The government discussed a draft amendment to the law on economic contacts with foreign countries, enabling both corporations and private businessmen to engage in foreign trade activities. Corporations or individuals wanting to engage in foreign trade activity wil have to pay a deposit of 100,000 and 20,000 crowns respectively.

The government further discussed a bill on industrial relations in private businesses and draft rules of remuneration. Basic wages are divided into six tariffs ranging from 1,300 to 3,000 crowns monthly, while other forms of pay including bonuses will be up to the private businessman. The draft wage system corresponding to the conditions of market mechanism will be submitted to the government by June 30.

The government approved draft principles of a rise in pensions and the limits of low pensions which are the only source of income by four to 10 per cent, to be valid until October 1, 1990. A proposal has been made to raise the limit of the lowest pensions which are the only source of income for a couple. At present 3.5 million people draw pensions, i.e. 22 percent of Czechoslovakia's total population of 15 million. The rise will apply to 3 million pensioners, i.e. 85 per cent of all pensioners. The average rise in old-age pensions will exceed 100 crowns per month. The overall proposed rise in pensions will amount to 800 million crowns in 1990 and 3,100 million crowns in 1991.

Regarding the controversial Czechoslovak-Hungarian project of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros dams on the Danube, the government expressed consent with starting preliminary talks with Hungary on the future fate of the project. The government noted that the deadline for finishing the project will not be kept due to the Hungarian side, and said it would set a new one following the outcome of the talks with the Hungarian side. Federal Deputy Premier Milan Cic was put in charge of conducting the talks with Hungary.

Federal Deputy Premier Josef Hromadka told a press conference following the government session that the session had been interrupted and will continue on Sunday.

Response to Trade Union Demands

LD0504233190 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The Czechoslovak Government issued a statement today on the ultimatums of the Confederation of Trade Unions, Independent Slovak Trade Unions, and the Confederation of Employees in Arts and Culture. It expressed surprise at their view about lack of cooperation between the government and trade unions, and about the fact that they choose a strike alert without first trying to submit their demands. The government is ready to talk, and proposes that trade unions nominate their representative to regularly attend sessions of the government and that representatives of trade unions take part in discussing government-sponsored bills as early as at a time of their preparation. In view of the fact that, most likely, what is involved is a misunderstanding stemming from overwork on the part of both partners, the government appeals to trade unionists to reconsider their decision and to concentrate on the return of prosperity to our homeland.

Slovakia's Cic on Relations With Czechs

AU0504205390 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1600 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Michael Kerbler report on visit by Slovak Premier Milan Cic to Vienna on 5 April—Cic in Slovak with superimposed German translation]

[Text] The conflict between Slovaks and Czechs on the term CSFR—Czechoslovak Federative Republic—provided the topic for discussion between Foreign Minister Alois Mock and Slovak Premier Milan Cic. According to Bratislava's arguments, the name of the state must express the equal coexistence of the two nations. Without a hyphen between the words Czecho and Slovak in the state's name, national autonomy is unclear to outsiders.

Although, for example, thousands of people demonstrated for an independent Slovakia in Bratislava, Premier Milan Cic wants to stick to his previous course.

[Begin Cic recording] We want to stick to our principle of living in a federative state together with the Czechs, of course, under the condition that both peoples can remain sovereign and independent and develop their own identities and cultures. [end recording]

However, the dispute over the name of the state, CSFR, which focuses on the symbolic hyphen, shows that the problems between the Czech and the Slovak nation are more profound.

[Begin Cic recording] This is really the proverbial tip of the iceberg, for we are also confronted with economic and social problems. We agreed with the Czech Government that we will sincerely deal with all these questions, because constructive ways have to be found so that we will be able to live peacefully with our neighbor. [end recording]

Slovakia, as well as the Czech Government, are looking for solutions to the smoldering ethnic conflict by means of negotiations. Prague is also trying to improve the atmosphere for talks with Bratislava through symbolic gestures. The dispatch of the new CSFR ambassador to Austria is assessed as such a gesture. Mrs. Magda Vacerova, who will arrive in Vienna tomorrow, comes from Slovakia. Premier Milian Cic comments on Slovakia future course:

[Begin Cic recording] We presented proposals to clarify the question about the future name of the state at various levels. We negotiated with the Czech Government. The problem may appear to be serious for some people and banal for others. However, we want to draw great attention to this problem to avoid further conflicts. We believe that we should continue to live as good neighbors and friends under a common roof, in a common home, but with some dividing wall as exists in every apartment. [end recording]

Two-Thirds of Slovaks Favor Capital Punishment

AU0604114190

[Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 5 April on page 3 carries a 200-word CTK report on a survey of Slovak public opinion on capital punishment, conducted in connection with the Federal Assembly's discussion on the Penal Code amendment, which foresees its abolition. The survey reportedly revealed that 66 percent of respondents in Slovakia are opposed to the abolition of capital punishment, with 22 percent favoring its abolition, and 12 percent being undecided.

People's Party Holds Three-Day Congress

Former Leadership Expelled

AU0504090190 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 3 Apr 90 p 1

["(BS)"-signed report: "Zalman and Andrs Have Been Expelled"]

[Text] At its session in Prague yesterday the Czechoslovak People's Party [CSL] Central Committee discussed, among other things, the results of the work of a commission set up to purge the party. On the basis of a recommendation from the Presidium, the CSL Central Committee decided that Zbynek Zalman, Dr. Josef Andrs, Miroslav Lukes, Dr. Jan Svabenicky, Vratislav Kosejk, and Jiri Danhelka should be expelled from the Czechoslovak People's Party.

In the decision it is stated, among other things, that "while in their posts the above-mentioned people severely damaged and discredited the party and endeavored to render impossible the implementation of Christian ideals in our society's political life. Even at a time when a revivalist stream was making an impact and when they had sufficient opportunity to realize that they were betraying Christian ideals they, on the contrary, developed their activity toward its liquidation." The above-mentioned people took refuge in reprisals against individuals and violated our party's articles many times.

The CSL Central Committee also discussed the congress' documents, the party's articles and program, and the state of preparations for the election campaign.

Election Strategy Debated

LD0404145590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1330 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The Czechoslovak People's Party Congress continues in Prague today with a debate on the main direction of the party's activities in the present pre-election period. Delegates have stressed the need to raise the people's spiritual and moral standards and to include a Christian aspect and ideal in the moral criteria of society.

Those speaking in the debate have agreed that the People's Party central slogan for the elections, "Freedom instead of Socialism," clearly distinguishes this party from others and clearly sets its place in the political spectrum.

Bohumil Svoboda, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak People's Party briefed the congress on an agreement on the joint approach in the election campaign and in the June elections with the Free Farmers' Party which respects and supports fully the agreement on the political and election coalition of the Czechoslovak People's Party, the Christian Democratic, and the Slovak Christian Democratic Movement.

Bartoncik Reelected Chairman; Congress Ends

LD0504220790 Prague CTK in English 1620 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 5 (CTK)—"Freedom instead of socialism" will be the main slogan under which the Czechoslovak People's Party will enter the may campaign before the parliamentary elections called for June 8.

A three-day congress of the Czechoslovak People's Party that ended here today focused on the party's pre-election campaign and its further orientation. It approved new statutes and program of the party as a free, independent, Christian and democratic party with a clearly non-socialist character.

Josef Bartoncik, who became chairman of the party in the framework of the revival process in December, was reelected chairman.

The congress, attended by some 1,000 delegates, confirmed in its final statement the revival of the party after last year's November events in Czechoslovakia and dissociated itself from the practices of the former leadership of the party that abandoned Christian ideals and brought the party to the role of a lackey of totalitarian power after the communist coup in 1948.

The congress approved the formation of an election coalition that will stand in the June parliamentary elections with a single list of candidates as a Christian and Democratic Union and will be made up of the Czechoslovak People's Party, the Slovak Christian-Democratic Movement and the Christian-Democratic Party that was established at a congress here last month.

The Czechoslovak People's Party has also signed an agreement on a joint strategy with the Free Farmers' Party during the June parliamentary elections. This strategy is based on the conviction that Christian ideals are the best common way for tackling the topical problems in all spheres of life in Czechoslovakia.

The approved program emphasized that the Czechoslovak People's Party "is based on the Christian system of values on which Western Europe, to which it reckons itself, has been built for centuries". That is why the party supports these international traditions and is mainly for strengthening contacts with the Union of Christian Democrats of Europe (UCDE) and Christian-Democratic International (IDC) based in Brussels. The party will also join the work of the committee of the Union of Christian Democrats for Central Europe (UCDEC) Association parties of Yugoslavia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czechoslovakia that established its permanent secretariat in Bratislava last month.

Membership of the party, which is active in Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, has doubled since last November. It now totals 90,000 and is expected to increase to 150,000.

Expected Number, Cost of Court Rehabilitations

AU0504091590 Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech 3 Apr 90 p 1

[CTK report: "For Justice To Prevail"]

[Excerpts] The five-day, 29th joint meeting of the Industry, Transport, and Trade Committees of the Federal Assembly's People's Chamber and Chamber of Nations opened in Prague on 2 April. [passage omitted] The first item on its agenda was the draft law on judicial rehabilitation. [passage omitted] As was stated by Lubomir Veleta, first deputy prosecutor general of the Czechoslovak Federative Republic, some 100,000 persons were sentenced in our country in the past 20 years for political offenses. [passage omitted] In the debate, committee members inquired, among other things, about the economic aspects of the rehabilitation process. Around 51,000 persons are expected to receive damages. The total cost of the damages would, in this case, amount to 1.161 billion korunas. [passage omitted]

Slovakian Churches Dispute Property Rights

AU0504131990 Bratislava SMENA in Slovak 3 Apr 90 p 2

["(DP)"-signed report: "Bishops in the Bar"]

[Text] Presov—The disputes and conflicts between Orthodox and Greek Catholic believers in East Slovakia have much deeper roots than it first seemed. This was confirmed at yesterday's joint discussions between representatives of both churches and R. Schuster, chairman of the Slovak National Council [SNR], J. Sirotnak, SNR deputy chairman, A. Varga, deputy Slovak premier, L. Snopko, Slovak culture minister, and other representatives of state administration.

The fact that negotiations had to be held on neutral territory—in this case, in the bar of the Hotel Dukla—is very telling. The Slovak Republic Government Presidium resolution of 24 March 1990 will resolve some issues at the tip of this pyramid of problems. These concern, in particular, returning some property to the Greek Catholic Church, resolving the residency and theology faculty issues, and so on. These problems will be resolved as soon as possible after some technical matters have been cleared up.

However, as His Grace Nikolay, Archbishop of Presov, and Monsignor Jan Hirka, Bishop of the Greek Catholic diocese in Presov and of all Greek Catholics in the CSSR, pointed out in their statements, one of the stumbling blocks is the property and legal settlement between the two churches in parishes. This involves the ownership of venerated properties and believers' access to them. For example, the situation at the moment is that Orthodox believers are driving the Greek Catholic clergy out of Olsavice and Greek Catholics in Keckovice, Svermova, and Lubice are not allowing Orthodox believers into churches. In this connection, Archbishop Nikolay expressed his fears that the believers will begin to use violence against each other. R. Schuster declared that if the representatives of both churches did not reach an agreement on this fundamental issue yesterday, he would recommend the government to make the final decision.

Nonparty Members' Club Resumes Activity

AU0504093890 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 2 Apr 90 p 2

["dp"-signed report: "KAN's New Identity"]

[Text] The approximately 300 members and supporters of the Club of Committed Nonparty Members [Klub angazovanych nestraniku, KAN] who met in the Railroad Workers Central House of Culture in Prague on Saturday [31 March] certainly cannot be dismissed as a bunch of nostalgic veterans. After more than 21 years, they intend to resume the activity of an organization which in 1968 was one of the few democratic alternatives to the then-ruling, albeit reform-minded, Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. KAN will continue to serve as a platform for nonparty members, but it will expand its activity and adjust it to the current political and economic conditions. Today, as the post-November cohesion of democratic forces crumbles, KAN considers support for the Civic Forum in the upcoming elections to be its foremost task. In the course of the session, the question of the organization's membership base was raised. Following agitated debates, those present decided that only citizens who were not members of any party in the post-1948 period can be KAN members.

The question arises whether this decision does not limit the KAN community to too narrow a circle of people.

Two Hungarian-Language Papers Published

LD0504212890 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] In Kassa [Kosice, CSSR] two independent Hungarian-language newspapers have been published. The readers were able to buy the second number of KASSAI FORUM and the third of KELETI NAPLO [EASTERN DIARY]. [passage omitted containing interview with (Zoltan Balassa), historian and chairman of the Friendly Society of Hungarians of Kosice]

Deputies Task De Maziere With Forming Government

LD0504155490 Hamburg DPA in German 1538 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—The CDU [Christian Democratic Union] chairman, Lothar de Maiziere, has, as expected, been proposed as prime minister and been given the task of forming a government by the People's Chamber. Of the 360 deputies, 62 voted against him. There were 31 abstentions. De Maiziere accepted the task.

The politician was proposed to form a cabinet by the CDU Parliamentary Group as the largest in the parliament. This rule is contained in Article 70, paragraph two of the GDR Constitution, which was not amended.

De Maiziere is to be elected and sworn in, and presumably his new cabinet as well, at the coming People's Chamber session on 11 April. The united opinion of the Alliance parties, the SPD [Social Democratic Party] and the Liberals, who are currently engaged in coalition talks, is that the government is to be in place before Easter. This Friday, five working groups from the negotiating partners are to discuss the most important subjects.

Run-Off Election Necessary for Chamber President

LD0504112190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1015 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—A run-off is necessary, after the first ballot for the People's Chamber speaker, because none of the candidates won a simple majority. Christian Democratic Union deputy Dr. Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, who narrowly failed to win a majority, and Socialist Democratic Party deputy Dr. Richard Hoeppner are now standing for election.

Hamburg DPA: People's Chamber To Meet 12 Apr

LD0504172290 Hamburg DPA in German 1642 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The next session of the People's Chamber will take place on 12 April [as received], the parliament decided this evening. According to the current timetable, the new prime minister and his government team will be elected then.

People's Chamber Amends Constitution

LD0504155190 Hamburg DPA in German 1354 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—This afternoon the GDR People's Chamber unanimously adopted an important constitutional amendment which virtually abolishes the old State Council, so that a state president can be elected. Until then the People's Chamber Presidium will assume the authority of the former State Council, and its president, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, that of the State Council chairman.

The preamble to the GDR Constitution was also revoked. It contains the statement that the GDR is a "socialist state of workers and peasants." The SED's [Social Unity Party of Germany] claim to the leading role was deleted from the Constitution in December 1989 by a large majority.

The constitutional amendment also makes it possible for the president of the parliament to have more than one deputy, which means that members of various parliamentary groups can be elected as deputy president.

The legislative change also contains an important deletion in Article 67, without which a new State Council chairman would have had to be elected at the constituent session of parliament. With this legislative amendment, which came into force immediately after it had been adopted, the office of acting State Council Chairman Manfred Gerlach was also abolished. He was elected acting head of state after Egon Krenz's resignation last year.

Deputy Presidents Elected

LD0504163190 Hamburg DPA in German 1530 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—This afternoon the People's Chamber elected the following six deputies to People's Chamber President Sabine Bergmann-Pohl Christian Democratic Union (CDU); Reinhard Hoeppner (SPD) [Social Democratic Party]; Kaete Niederkirchner (PDS) [Party for Democratic Socialism], who won decisively against Hans Modrow; Stefan Gottschall (German Social Union); Juergen Schmieder (Liberals); Wolfgang Ullman (Alliance 90-Greens); and Dieter Helm (Farmers' Party-Women).

Earlier the parliamentary groups stipulated that each party apart from the CDU should receive a deputy post. Each parliamentary party put up two candidates in a secret ballot. "Only one vote is valid, which must go to one of the groups' candidates", the new provisional standing orders specify.

New President Bergmann-Pohl's Speech

LD0504153890 East Berlin Deutschlandsender Network in German 0900 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Speech by People's Chamber President Dr. Sabine Bergmann-Pohl at the People's Chamber session in East Berlin—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text]...today, irrespective of their political views, borne by joint decisions by the People's Chamber, for the call—we are the People—should always resound in our ears. In the autumn of 1989, the GDR people spontaneously forced the political transformation on the streets, in churches, and with the unstoppable exodus of hundreds of thousands of mainly young people. The old Stalinist regime inexorably collapsed at lighting speed. The extent of humiliation, the deficiency in the meaning and values of life can probably still not be estimated. We were forced to realize that there was no longer scope for renewal here and that there was no prospect of reform. Many people in our country recognize even more clearly that a radically new start had to be made in political thinking and actions. What we take with us from the old era is the old vision of the hope ot fraternal relations between people which, once betrayed, remains an unfilfilled task. Today, in this hour, we are witnessing an event of historical importance: the first freely elected parliament in the 40-year history of the GDR meeting. My thoughts are with the victims of Stalinist rule in our country, with all those who suffered under the division of the Germans, who broke down under the severing of human ties, and whose desire for freedom was thwarted by the wall. The legacy of the victims and our people's will to live should always remain an obligation for us to work in support of unity in freedom in our parliamentary activity. [applause]

Over and above all party egoism, we must succeed, through a wise and widely supported policy, in putting hope again into people's lives, and, once again, move to preserve trust in the future. Through our legislative work we must create conditions that fortify the will to perform, let people enjoy the fruits of their work, promote caring and responsible actions, and firmly weave the social security net.

The tender plant of democracy, which survived 50 years of winter, has now been entrusted to us. Let us by our work bring spring into the country.

Former Regime Leaders Not Fit To Stand Trial

AU0504134690 Munich SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG in German 31 Mar-1 Apr 90 p 9

[Interview with Deputy General Prosecuting Attorney Lothar Reuter by Heribert Prantl; place and date not given: "No Trial Against the Decaying Old Men"]

[Text] [Prantl] You have instituted proceedings against the former leaders of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED]. You are looking for personal guilt in a system that has collapsed. This system was supported by the judicial organs. Are the former servants prosecuting the former masters now?

[Reuter] I would like to answer with a polemical question. Who should be responsible for criminal prosecution? One cannot ask the question this way. Who else should be responsible for criminal prosecution? A great number of people have been reported to the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney. The Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney has repeatedly been requested to investigate criminal offenses.

[Prantl] Wrongly?

[Reuter] When the first proceedings were opened, I was still a professor in Jena and had nothing to do with what happened in Berlin. I learned things from the papers. Everything started in Berlin with the proceedings that were instituted against the chairman of the metalworking trade union. The magazine JUNGE WELT uncovered the whole story, and subsequently TRIBUENE also published the report. This was a big scandal. The whole world was shocked, everybody was screaming "privileges" and "the man is corrupt." The man had to relinquish his post and placed his house at the public's disposal. A few days ago, I dropped the case because there was nothing to it.

[Prantl] So, he did not enjoy any privileges?

[Reuter] This man certainly enjoyed privileges and made use of his connections to build such a house. However, there were no criminal offenses involved. This case was only the starting point. Countless complaints reached the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney in the middle and at the end of November. People called for the punishment of all officials who enjoyed so-called privileges. An investigating committee of the People's Chamber was established. Subsequently, and SED investigating committee under the chairmanship of Gysi was created. All this happened prior to the party congresses, before the Party of Democratic Socialism [PDS] was founded. At this party congress and because of the work of the People's Chamber committee investigating abuse of office and corruption, numerous cases of corruption and came to light. Gysi gave a detailed report on what was going on at the Wandlitz settlement. Then an incredible wave of hatred and outrage swamped the country which one could describe as lynch law. At the weekend when the PDS Congress was held, discussion focused largely on the figure of Schalck-Golodkowski. This was the actual beginning of investigations into criminal offenses of former leaders.

I talk about this as somebody who was not involved at the time. I was informed later what kind of telephone calls the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney received and what people demanded: They called for the arrest of the foreign minister and the arrest of Mittag. People repeatedly stressed that the judicial organs would become guilty of perverting the course of justice if the one or the other person is not arrested. Proceedings were instituted against Schalck-Golodkowski at the time, and an arrest warrant was issued. The next ones to be arrested were Mittag and Tisch, and in this way one after the other was eliminated, all the more so because the People's Chamber Committee headed by Toeplitz suggested that all these figures were involved in criminal offenses.

[Prantl] One had the impression that the general prosecuting attorney was also affected by this wave, that he was also convinced of this.

[Reuter] Yes, this is very true. The Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney was apparently acting under pressure that existed in the whole country. There were threats of strikes, and individual strikes were staged to press for the arrest of these officials.

[Prantl] Has the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney finally gotten rid of this pressure?

[Reuter] As a matter of fact, it worked without a clear concept until the middle of January. The general prosecuting attorney had resigned in connection with the Schalck-Golodkowski affair. His temporary successor was not very successful. Subsequently, the position of general prosecuting attorney remained vacant for about two weeks. Nobody was willing to assume this office. This was incredible. The head of the department who had initiated the whole procedure suffered from a psychological and physical breakdown. Finally, the nomination of the current General Prosecuting Attorney Joseph was proposed. He was a member of the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney who was not very well known.

At the request of the new general prosecuting attorney—he was my assistant and one of my graduate students for some time—I promised to examine the proceedings. Proceedings in connection with charges of high treason had already been opened. When I noticed how bad everything went I decided in the interest of the cause to temporarily assume responsibility for the whole complex of criminal proceedings in connection with charges of corruption and the abuse of office surrounding the Ministry for State Security. I established a new office with 40 or 50 prosecuting attorneys who also investigated the reports that reached the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney.

[Prantl] You used the past tense. Does this mean that you are no longer working on that?

[Reuter] We have carried out an enormous amount of investigations. The proceedings have more or less been concluded.

[Prantl] However, the great charges have not been brought so far.

[Reuter] There will be no treason trials, neither against Honecker nor against anybody else. We will publish the results of the lengthy and extensive investigations. I do not know how many volumes they will fill. We will document everything and submit it to the People's Chamber and the new government.

[Prantl] Will there be charges because of other offenses?

[Reuter] The proceedings against these figures because of the most serious waste of state property are continuing. The allegations are quite monstrous. We are not dealing with minor offenses here. The proceedings continue, and I cannot tell how they will end. However, I am afraid that it will not be possible to subject Mielke (former state security minister—the editors) to a trial. How should this take place? I am ask this question to every person in this country: How can one try a 82-year-old sick, confused, and senile old man who is suffering from increasing paralysis?

[Prantl] Do you want to say that he is incapable of standing trial?

[Reuter] In the case of Mittag (former Politburo member, responsible for economic issues—the editors), I am still waiting for an experts report. I cannot make a final statement on his case. However, Mittag is also seriously ill. Since the charges of high treason have been dropped, what do you want to do? The man suffers from severe diabetes, he has had both his legs amputated. In what country is such a man kept in prison? I am aware that nobody will show understanding for his release. He is the last Politburo member still in detention. One must not forget this.

[Prantl] So, there will be no trial against former Prime Minister Stoph, no trial against the former People's Chamber Chairman Sindermann, and no trial against Erich Honecker and Hermann Axen, the former Central Committee secretary?

[Reuter] I could give you details of the medical history of each of them. Stoph is 75 years old. Doctors have confirmed that a collapse can be expected any time. Sindermann suffers from a severe heart disease. Axen is also seriously ill. Specialists have confirmed this in each individual case. Most of these people are over 75 years old. A gerontologist explained to me that people who are suddenly thrust from positions of responsibility, from an active life into inactivity and into detention often fade away rapidly.

[Prantl] So, the former officials you mentioned are not fit to stand trial?

[Reuter] Yes, I am afraid so. I am telling this to everybody in this country. The court must finally decide. Everything will depend on the medical reports. These people are not able to stand anything.

[Prantl] Is it possible that you will drop the charges even before they are brought by the prosecuting attorney?

[Reuter] I do not rule this out. You know that our rules of procedure contain the same provision as yours, namely that charges may be suspended temporarily because of illness.

Call for Probe Into Deputies' Stasi Links

AU0504130390 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 3 Apr 90 p 2

[ADN report: "For a Probe into Links With the Ministry of State Security"]

[Text] All elected deputies of the People's Chamber, the members of the future government, the members of the Office of the General Prosecuting Attorney, and the

Supreme Court should be subjected to examinations as to whether files of the former Ministry of State Security furnish evidence of their involvement in the ministry's activities. This has been demanded in an open letter from leading figures of the GDR's prodemocracy movement. In this connection, the figures called for the establishment of an investigating committee by the People's Chamber. "In order to be able to live together, comprehensive clarification is required, particularly at the beginning of the renewal of our society," stresses the letter that was received by ADN yesterday [2 April].

The candidates for the local elections should make an affirmation in lieu of an oath that, according to their knowledge, they have never worked for the Stasi state security system. All citizens who were harmed by the activities of the state security system should be given an opportunity to claim compensation. For this reason, the Stasi files must be secured in such a way that they are available for legal investigations.

The open letter has been signed by the chairman of the Democratic Awakening, Rainer Eppelmann, Gerd Poppe, and Wolfgang Templin (Initiative for Peace and Human Rights); Wolfgang Ullmann and Hans-Juergen Fischbeck (Democracy Now); Tatjana Boehme (Independent Women's Association); Klaus Schlueter (Green League); and Hans Misselwitz (Social Democratic Party of Germany); Monsignor Karl-Heinz Ducke, head of the Study Office of the Berlin Bishops' Conference and one of the organizers of the roundtable; Gottfried Forck, bishop of the Evangelical Churches in Berlin-Brandenburg; writers Christoph Hein and Christa Wolf; and other figures.

People's Chamber Forms Ad-Hoc Stasi Committee

LD0504171390 Hamburg DPA in German 1602 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—The GDR People's Chamber decided by a large majority to form an ad-hoc committee to investigate suspicions of Stasi activity by People's Chamber deputies. The precise brief and further details are to be laid down at the next parliamentary session.

Parliamentary President Sabine Bergmann-Pohl (CDU) [Christian Democratic Union] announced that all the parties, apart from the CDU, had given their consent to voluntary checking of Stasi files. She herself, said the president, had already undergone investigation. "I have already submitted to investigation so that you can trust me." In addition, voluntary inspection of files has already started or has been completed in the Stasi complex in East Berlin's Normannenstrasse among the SPD [Social Democratic Party], PDS [Party for Democratic Socialism], Liberals, and Alliance 90.

The formation of a committee to draft new standing orders for the People's Chamber was also decided.

Proposed Mark Exchange Rate Criticized

AU0504132990 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 3 Apr 90 p 3

[Klaus Steinitz editorial: "FRG Exchange Rate Impudent, Irresponsible"]

[Text] No sooner are the People's Chamber elections over than the election promises made by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other FRG politicians on an exchange rate of 1:1, and the statement that the social concerns of the GDR people are totally unfounded, seem to be forgotten. The announcement of an exchange rate of 2:1 for wages, salaries, and old-age pensions, and of an exchange rate of 1:1 for savings accounts of up to 2,000 marks have led to outrage and protests in all sections of the GDR people.

Three things in particular are amazing about the appearance of the Bonn government representatives. First, the ease with which election promises are being forgotten and are even being reversed. Second, the impudence and arrogance with which the GDR people are only being considered as subjects whose social fate is to be decided from outside, meaning by the politicians of the Federal Republic. Not even the first freely elected, democratic People's Chamber, being the competent representative of the GDR people's interests, is being taken seriously. Third, the irresponsible and superficial manner in which economic data are distorted and interpreted at will.

The thesis—which has not been proved and contradicts the detailed calculations of the FRG economic institutes—that the GDR's productivity level is only 30 percent the FRG level, is intended to serve as an argument for unfavorable exchange rates. Economically even less reasonable is Economics Minister Haussmann's claim that every exchange rate which is better than 4:1 is a generous gift of the Federal Republic to the GDR people. Anybody having to do with economics is aware that the profitability of exports, calculated in Deutsche marks, cannot be the basis for assessing the domestic purchasing power of a currency. According to identical statements on productivity comparisons made by the DIW [German Economic Research Institute] in West Berlin and by GDR scientists, the productivity level of the GDR is about 50 percent the level reached by the FRG. This productivity lag is essentially attributable to highly obsolete machinery and partly to the poor state of production facilities.

The ratio of gross wages and salaries in the FRG and the GDR is 3:1, and that of net wages 2.2:1. An exchange rate of 2:1 would mean that net wages in the GDR would be less than one fourth the net wages in the FRG. The existing comparisons of purchasing power for goods and services that determine the living standard, show that on average, the purchasing power of the GDR mark corresponds more or less to the purchasing power of the Deutsche mark for all goods and services.

Regarding the argument that low wages for employees in the GDR would improves the enterprises' prospects of competition, we must say that even with an exchange rate of 1:1, the wage costs in the GDR would be less than half as high; the problems of international competitiveness must in particular be resolved by modernizing and rationally organizing production, and not by absolutely deteriorating the living standard at the expense of the working people and older citizens. An exchange rate of 1:1 would above all create very favorable prospects for profits for West German capital. By means of modern production facilities in the GDR, the productivity lag—as compared with similar companies in the FRG—could be eliminated, while the wage costs would only be one fourth. What conclusions do we have to draw from all this?

First, calling for an exchange rate of 1:1 for wages, salaries, old-age pensions, and other incomes is realistic and takes into account the existing differences in productivity and wage levels.

Second, because the introduction of cost effective prices and/or monetary union would entail the abolition of subsidies for foodstuffs and industrial goods, totalling about 50 billion marks, the wages, salaries, old-age pensions, scholarships, and other incomes must be increased in advance by a corresponding compensation or cost of living allowance.

Third, we may assume that the savings accounts on the whole represent produced income. Therefore, an exchange rate of 1:1 for savings accounts of up to 2,000 marks would not be socially justified; in addition, it would largely affect older citizens who have saved money for old age. Moreover, owing to higher prices for subsidized foodstuffs and industrial goods, the value of savings will be reduced, which will not be compensated for by lower prices for quality consumer goods for the socially weak.

Fourth, it is impossible to prevent many enterprises from going bankrupt when monetary union is introduced precipitously, primarily by reducing the costs through lower wages. The main way must consist in reducing the costs by modernization and more rational production and sales organizations. At the same time, it will be necessary to temporarily lay down tax alleviations and promotion measures, so as to improve the chances of survival for most enterprises without lifting the pressure of competition.

FDGB's Mausch Views New TU Law

AU0504143290 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 3 Apr 90 p 3

[Article by Helga Mausch, chairperson of the Free German Trade Union Federation, on the Trade Union Law adopted by the People's Chamber on 12 March: "Millions Back It"]

[Text] When the Law on the Rights of GDR Trade Unions was adopted by the People's Chamber and was enacted on 12 March 1990 by being published in the GAZETZBLATT [LEGAL GAZETTE], proponents and opponents were already firmly in their starting positions to comment on the pros and cons of more trade union rights.

It is a positive factor of the Trade Union Law that it is the result of the resolute and determined demand of innumerable trade union members and honorary and full-time grass-roots trade union officials. Demanding a trade union law with a unanimity that is rare in our stormy times, they expressed the will to maintain strong unified trade unions, and to guarantee their free and independent work.

Another positive factor of the Trade Union Law is the fact that millions of trade unionists were ready and determined to push through "their" law in any case, if necessary, by militant action. At the special trade union congress on 31 January and 1 February 1990, it was discussed in all seriousness, and it was supported on the following days by telephone calls, letters, cables, and teletype messages expressing agreement or protest (the latter because of delays in the People's Chamber's dealing with it). About 10,000 proposals and over a million signatures for the trade union law have been received.

An additional positive factor of the Trade Union Law is the fact that this law, which was discussed controversially by the People's Chamber and is the result of a hard struggle by the trade unions, largely takes into account the wishes, ideas, and hopes of more than eight million trade union members and their representatives in the basic organizations and boards.

Let me add a final basic thought. For all the objections and reservations regarding individual provisions of this law, many trade unionists of the FRG and leading representatives of the German Trade Union Federation [DGB] have congratulated us on it, describing the law as a step in the right direction, and stating that the ban on lockouts, that we have achieved, is a success that they have so far failed to reach.

The Trade Union Law—which is based on Article 44 (new version) of the GDR Constitution—documents the independence of all trade unions in our country of any state or partisan constraints. Never again will or can trade unions be the extended arm of a party, a link between the party and the masses, or whatever the unfortunate past in this area should be called. In our view, this arrangement is so clear, so unambiguous, and of such fundamental importance, that it does not require a more detailed discussion.

Nonetheless, we should add something that is connected with it. The liberation of trade unions from all outer and inner constraints also means that every individual union has the freedom of collective bargaining, and its autonomy in collective bargaining is guaranteed.

All existing and emerging industrial and trade unions negotiate on problems of the working people's working and living conditions, without the state or the trade union federation being allowed to interfere in any way "from above." In doing so, every individual union starts from its own means and possibilities, and strives for the most favorable solution for the working people whose interests it represents.

Numerous trade union members consider the right to strike, connected with a ban on any form of lockout, clearly one of the "assets" of the law. Under the market economy conditions which the citizens of our country will be facing soon, the guarantee of the right to strike, connected with a ban on lockouts—which is already enshrined in the Constitution and has been anchored in the Trade Union Law—is of a value for the working people, which will manifest itself in practice—even though hopefully not too soon and not too often. Every counter-argument on the part of capital, every attempt of, above all, certain West German politicians to polemicize against these provisions, will make the arguments in favor of the law appear in an even better light to the trade unions. That certain modifications of this arrangement can be discussed and considered, is an entirely different question.

By adopting this Trade Union Law, we have guaranteed the trade unions' rights of co-determination in enterprises regarding all the problems that concern the working people's working and living conditions. In the law, we deliberately refrained from defining these rights of codetermination more specifically. Nor did we say in detail who specifically observes these rights. That gives us some leeway in exercising trade union codetermination, possibly through other forms that have so far not been laid down by law.

For example, it would be conceivable to ensure, by means of strong trade union basic organizations in enterprises, the comprehensive representation of interests by works councils.

Finally, far-reaching rights, protective functions for trade union representatives in enterprises, as well as material-technical conditions for their work are an important guarantee for a better representation of interests.

On the whole, in discussing the pros and cons of the Trade Union Law, we must start from the consideration that this law came about under very concrete conditions in which the trade unions had to adjust to the market economy. Meanwhile, the development has advanced at great rate, as everybody knows, and it will be necessary to lay down trade union rights and the right of codetermination in other laws, such as the Works Constitution Act, the Staff Representation Act, and in the amendment to the Labor Code and the new constitution.

In the final analysis, what we want is to ensure more trade union rights than exist in the FRG, and to bring in our own ideas. We think that the social elements that our members have called for belong into an economic and monetary reform under any circumstances. The Trade Union Law offers us an opportunity to fight, together with the DGB, for an all-German ban on lockouts.

Lambsdorff Condemns Draft Union Treaty

LD0504174690 Hamburg DPA in German
1621 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—In the opinion of the Free Democratic Party [FDP] chairman, Count Otto Lambsdorff, the draft of West German-East German state treaty for economic and monetary union published today is a "document of subjugation." More rights must be given to the GDR's representatives, Lambsdorff said today in East Berlin. He qualified the draft published by the SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG as "notes on a draft state treaty." He complained that the debate is causing increasing confusion.

According to Lambsdorff the Federal Government's offer to the new GDR Government on economic and monetary union will look different from the Bundesbank's proposal. He appeared confident that agreement can be achieved by the summer. To counter the various fears about the conclusion of an economic and monetary union, Lambsdorff said that "it will be a success story."

Lambsdorff described the debate on the rate of exchange for wages and salaries as "economically wrong and nonsensical." If there is a price reform during the introduciton of economic and monetary union, then this will also mean new prices for labor. Pay talks must begin immediately. The rate of exchange can only be a measure for the first few weeks. The creation of works councils is the prerequisite for pay talks, as agreements will have to be made at the enterprise level for reasons of time.

In the case of savings accounts, on the other hand, the rate is decisive. Lambsdorff resolutely rejected restricting the 1:1 to small savers. The FDP does not want "a cold expropriation of savers." However, an exchange rate of 1:1 for savings will not be possible immediately. In this context, Lambsdorff cited a period of around 10 years.

However, there must be an exception for pensioners. There will also be a cut-off date because of "highly displeasing speculation." The debate about an exchange rate is of little help in converting pensions. The aim should be to achieve 70 percent of the new level of net income in the GDR.

On the other hand, the enterprises' obligations cannot be converted at 1:1. The state bank's lendings to the combines and the housing sector are worth nothing. Help must be given here through compensation payments.

FRG Unionist Rejects GDR TU Law

AU0604090490 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 3 Apr 90 p 3

[Article by Klaus Murmann, president of the Federal Association of the German Employers Association, on Trade Union Law adopted by the People's Chamber on 12 March: "In This Way, Autonomy in Bargaining Is Impossible"]

[Text] The revolution in the GDR was supported both by the desire for freedom and the goal to achieve a higher living standard. The yardstick for people in the GDR was and continues to be the FRG. Germans in the East and West are equally diligent. The reason for the prosperity gap between the GDR and the FRG is not the people but the different systems.

It was above all the ban on free entrepreneurial initiative that caused the damage in the GDR, but also the lack of autonomy in bargaining resulting in being unable to freely negotiate wages and salaries. The relationship between German trade unions and the employers associations is exemplary in Europe and responsible for the generally positive social climate in the FRG. It was the basis for our economic success.

For this reason, the social partners must become active in rebuilding the GDR. They must see to it that state tutelage is eliminated. Also, they must take the regulation of the working and social conditions into their own hands.

Employers and trade unions in the FRG support this goal. The chairman of the German Trade Union Federation [DGB] and myself issued a joint statement in March, which includes the following passage:

"Both the free determination of prices on the part of the employers and the autonomous bargaining of wages and working conditions by the partners of the collective agreement constitute the core of a market-oriented system. Thus, autonomy in bargaining must also prevail in the GDR, which involves freely established and independent employers and employees associations and a balance among these forces."

I believe that the trade union law adopted by the Peoples' Chamber is not compatible with this. It does not provide for a balance between trade unions and employers, but rather gives the trade unions special powers that are not compatible with a democratic system. This law is designed to replace the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] state with a trade union state. By definition, trade unions are the legal body that represents the interests of the working people at the enterprise level and at a higher level. They are endowed with global rights to participation, and the right to initiate legislation; they are responsible for social insurance; they are entitled to financial resources from the state; they have the right to strike without being liable for damages, but workers in other enterprises affected by the strike are entitled to the continued payment of wages, and there is an absolute ban on lockouts.

This law makes autonomy in bargaining impossible and prevents trusting cooperation within enterprises, as exists in the FRG. It is inspired by the spirit of the past and not by the spirit of democratic renewal.

The old People's Chamber, which was not legitimized by the voters, did not do the new democracy a good service.

This law is a serious impediment on the path toward an early economic upswing. I am afraid that it does not encourage private entrepreneurs to invest in the GDR.

If prosperity is not achieved, people go where prosperity is to be found. For this reason, we share the trade unions' interests in opening up prospects for the people in their home country. Good conditions for entrepreneurs and for the working people provides the basis for this.

DGB Chairman Ernst Breit and myself agreed that the economic and monetary union must be accompanied by a social union. Entrepreneurs in the FRG cannot be compared with the capitalists that the readers of this daily may have become familiar with in Marxist-Leninist education. Modern entrepreneurs know how important social policy is. Our joint statement reads:

"Economic efficiency and social justice belong together in a social market economy." In this spirit, we advocate the introduction of unemployment insurance, in order to prevent social hardships wherever possible.

Even among the DGB the view prevails that the trade union law is not compatible with a democratic system. However, some trade unionists would like to pick the cherries out of a cake that is indigestible as a whole. I can only warn those interested in doing this: The possibility of locking people out is the final weapon that the employers can use to terminate a strike. Banning this would be tantamount to bringing about the danger of strikes being staged more often and more thoughtlessly in the GDR than in the FRG. Then the state would have to intervene. The trade union law is logical in so far as it allows the state to intervene in the event of strikes. This has always been rejected by trade unions and employers in the FRG. I think this position should also be adopted in the GDR.

Ortleb Briefs Liberals on New Party Name

AU0504140990 East Berlin DER MORGEN in German 30 Mar 90 pp 1-2

[Letter from Prof. Dr. Rainer Ortleb, chairman of the League of Free Democrats-The Liberals, to party members: "On the Unity of the Liberals"]

[Text] Dear Party Members,

On 27 March 1990, a delegates conference (with four of the 112 delegates voting against it and seven abstentions) decided to change our party name to "League of Free

Democrats-The Liberals." The media reported on it. Confusion was created by the fact that some newspapers and radio and television stations made the additional comment that the originally planned conference on the unification of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the Free Democratic Party [FDP] of the GDR, and the German Forum Party [DFP] was thwarted.

In order to brief you on the actual course of events and the results of the delegates conference, I write you this letter.

On 20 March the chairmen of the LDP, the FDP of the GDR, and the German Forum Party told the public that, on the LDP's initiative, they had agreed to propose to their elected bodies to unite the three parties into the "FDP—The Liberals." Until the convening of a party congress (after the municipal elections) the party should be headed by the present LDP chairman on the basis of the present LDP program and the present LDP articles. Dr. Menzel (FDP/GDR) and Dr. Schmieder (DFP) had promised to share the responsibility for the leadership as deputy party chairmen.

The initiative, which was started by the Presidium of our party's Executive Committee and myself, was in line with the mandate of the Dresden party congress to create a strong center by the unification of the liberal forces, as well as with the latest experiences, that is, to eliminate frictions between the three parties by the unification and to recommend itself to the citizens as the liberal party in the municipal elections. Unfortunately, our initiative was frustrated by the attitude of the FDP/GDR and the DFP. Although members of our party have good relations with the FDP/GDR in many places, the Laender Council of this party refused to give its allegiance to Chairman Dr. Menzel and decided not to participate in the planned unification conference.

The DFP, on the other hand, made such unacceptable conditions that the delegates conference which took place on 27 March was only an LDP conference, which, however, was open to guests who showed their interest in strengthening the liberal forces. DFP members and leading representatives of the National Democratic Party of Germany [NDPD] followed this signal.

As you know, the delegates conference decided to establish the LDP as the "League of Free Democrats-The Liberals," which all liberal forces, parties, political associations, or individuals alike, can join. It was not possible to call it "FDP—The Liberals" because the party registered under this name did not attend the conference and, of course, two parties with the same name are not permitted to run in elections.

We understand the renaming of our party as an important step toward the direction of the unification with the FRG FDP as our partner into a greater-German liberal party, if possible, before the end of the year.

Dear party members, you can be convinced that the decision of the delegates conference and the political steps of the party leadership resulting from it are exclusively based on the will to decisively influence the development in this country and the unification of the two German states. The municipal elections are drawing near. The Liberals must not dissipate their energies on "minor theaters of war." They have to use their powers jointly and purposefully.

We should jointly exploit our party's abundant expert knowledge in municipal politics. The candidates must be competent and convince the voters.

We are not afraid of getting in touch with anybody, neither with other democratic parties nor citizens' associations. However, we decidedly reject attempts by the Party of Democratic Socialism to get into contact with us.

Politics is the art of the possible. Therefore, we need a productive relationship between grassroots democracy and the ability to make decisions everywhere in the party and we need tolerance within the party. The election program resolved at the Dresden party congress remains the basis and the yardstick.

Liberals belong in every parliament and every town hall. Without the "League of Free Democrats" there will be no reasonable municipal policy!

Rainer Ortleb, chairman of the League of Free Democrats-The Liberals.

Protests Against 2:1 Rate in E. Berlin, Elsewhere

LD0504163790 Hamburg DPA in German 1545 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—Protest demonstrations started this afternoon in East Berlin and the GDR's area [bezirk] capitals against the proposal of the Bundesbank and Bonn politicians to exchange the GDR mark at 2:1. A procession of over 10,000 people first formed up on the Alexanderplatz in East Berlin. The demonstrators then marched toward the Lustgarten. Along their route they passed the People's Chamber, where the constituent session was taking place.

The trade union umbrella organization and its individual unions are the organizers of the demonstrations and the rallies afterwards which are directed against social cuts. Banners proclaimed in East Berlin: "We demand 1:1" and "A fresh start with electoral fraud—not for us". The crowd chanted: "2:1 Wages are an insult," and "Whoever tricks us will be trashed."

70,000 in Dresden; Cottbus, Gera Protests

LD0504175290 East Berlin Deutschlandsender Network in German 1702 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Today in the GDR, tens of thousands of people demonstrated against the plans of Bonn politicians and the Bundesbank to convert the GDR mark at the rate of 2:1. At the rally in Berlin, FDGB [Free

German Trade Union Federation] chairwoman Mausch spoke of playing an unreasonable and unbearable game with the worries and expectations of the people. A rate of 2:1 will result in social decline, old people living in poverty, and economic distress. The FDGB called for wages, salaries, and pensions to be converted at 1:1 ratio. [passage omitted]

In Dresden, 70,000 people gathered. There were reports of similar protests in Cottbus and Gera.

'Hundreds of Thousands' in 'Numerous' Cities

LD0504205290 Hamburg DPA in German 1728 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] East Berlin (DPA)—This evening, hundreds of thousands protested in numerous cities in the GDR against social cuts in the country and for a 1:1 exchange rate of GDR marks for Deutschmarks. In East Berlin alone an estimated 100,000 people took to the streets. Some 70,000 demonstrated in Dresden and 50,000 in Leipzig.

Tens of thouands also demonstrated in Cottbus, Rostock, Halle, Magdeburg, and Gera against the 2:1 rate proposed by the Federal Republic's Bundesbank. [passage omitted]

In Halle, 20,000 people demonstrated. They shouted: "We are Not Half-Germans." Around 20,000 Rostockers demanded an oath of declaration from the People's Chamber and the Bundestag, ADN reported. [passage omitted]

Delegation Head Views CSCE Economic Conference

AU0504145590 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 4 Apr 90 p 7

[Report on interview with Hans Voss, head of the GDR delegation at the CSCE Economic Conference, by Werner Otto in Bonn; date not given: "A Document With Clear Outlines"]

[Text] The first, major economic conference of the 35 CSCE states started on 19 March in Bonn. In an interview with NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, the head of the GDR delegation, Ambassador Hans Voss, has drawn up an interim balance sheet.

[Otto] Results of the conference are expected by 11 April. On the basis of the course of the conference to date, will it be possible to meet this deadline?

[Voss] The discussion on new impulses for the CSCE states' future economic relations were very intensive and characterized by great expert knowledge. More than 1,500 delegation members registered, which is partly due to the strong representation of the business sector. At first, the participating states determined their individual positions; subsequently two working groups assumed parallel talks on the general terms of trade and the conditions for the activities on the markets of the various countries, as well as on the many and diverse problems of industrial cooperation, its forms, and methods.

[Otto] In what spheres are there already clear outlines noticeable?

[Voss] Apart from the discussion on the expansion of the "classic forms" of cooperation, the agenda includes questions of new methods such as "joint ventures" and their legal, political, and financial conditions. The conference is summarizing all ideas in this connection. What is particularly important is that the EC countries submitted a draft comprehensive document—incidentally, the only proposal of this kind. Meanwhile, this proposal has become the basis for the discussion of a final document, and it was revised by the EC countries as a result of the consultations. At the current stage of the conference, one is already discussing concrete formulations for the final text.

[Otto] Have the differences that appeared in the initial stage, in which the various parties determined their positions, been cleared yet?

[Voss] This CSCE meeting is quite different from other CSCE meetings. It is a conference without ideological confrontations. The desire for intensifying cooperation and showing new possibilities for economic cooperation dominates absolutely. This is due to the changed "landscape" in Europe, but also to the fact that the EC is a decisive factor in the efforts that are aimed at coordination.

[Otto] What about the delicate subject of COCOM [Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls] and the export restrictions for the Western industrialized countries to the East European market?

[Voss] The differing views have hardly changed in this connection. Yet, apart from the fact that this subject is not included in the mandate of this conference, people are above all interested in not straining these talks through such a controversial problem.

[Otto] Where does the GDR see its contribution to the success of this important economic meeting?

[Voss] The GDR delegation is in a rather problematic situation. We came here on the instructions of the old government, because the new one is currently only being established. Our decisive task is to familiarize the conference with economic reforms that have been initiated in the GDR, and with the reforms that have already been implemented and that we plan for the future. We want to contribute to this conference through our cooperation and we side with those participants that show a constructive attitude. This also applies to the final document, which the conference wants to adopt, and which is intended to make economic cooperation a permanent topic of the CSCE Conference.

GDR Signs 3-Sat TV Program Contract

AU0504210490 Vienna Television Service in German 2000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The directors of ZDF, ORF, SRG, and DFF of the GDR signed a new 3-Sat contract in East Berlin today. With this contract, the GDR television station becomes an equal member of the 3-Sat satellite television program and will immediately start to actively participate in programing. Thus, the complete German linguistic area is represented in 3-Sat.

HORIZONT Again To Be Published Weekly

LD0504225290 East Berlin Deutschlandsender Network in German 1702 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] The well-known GDR newspaper on international politics and economics, HORIZONT, will be appearing weekly again from now on. As a weekly paper it was reduced to being a monthly by the former regime in (?1989). Published in a handy magazine format, HORIZONT has also expanded its content and offers much more background information.

Second Round Election Procedures Described

LD0504214890 Budapest MTI in English 1400 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 8 (MTI)—The second round of the Hungarian parliamentary elections will take place on April 8, Sunday, in 171 individual constituencies.

In five constituencies in Hajdu-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg counties, the elections have to be repeated because less than half of the electors turned up for the first round. In these five constituencies all the candidates who took part in the first round have the right to compete in the second round. In further 166 constituencies, none of the candidates won an absolute majority of the valid votes in the first round. The candidates who obtained at least 15 per cent of the valid votes in the first round or, if there were not at least three such candidates, the three candidates who obtained the highest number of votes in the first round, have the right to take part in the second round.

The polling stations will be open from 0600 to 1800. The electors will be given a single voting-slip, containing the names of the candidates. The second round will be valid provided that more than one fourth of the electors turn up. The candidates who win the most votes will become Members of Parliament.

Those who turned 18 or came of age through marriage between March 25 and April 8 will also have the right to vote.

Should the second round be invalid, a by-election should be called. The date of the by-election should be specified by the national electoral committee within a month.

Nyers on Election Results, Prospects

AU0504100390 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 31 Mar pp 1,8

[Report on interview with Hungarian Socialist Party Chairman Rezso Nyers by Laszlo Karcagi; place and date not given: "Into Opposition With Head Held High"]

[Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] did not entertain great hopes when running in the elections. It was clear that the party would have to give up power, or what was left of this power, to the opposition forces. While the strongest members of the opposition were keeping their fingers crossed during the long hours of vote-counting that they would have as great an influence as possible in the new government, the MSZP were only hoping for a respectable defeat.

[Karcagi] Did you chill any champagne at the party headquarters for the night following the elections?

[Nyers] Being realistic politicians, we naturally did not expect victory. The only question was whether we would end up third or fourth in the competition among the parties. The opinion poll results broadcast on television after the closing of election districts, results which gave us much less of a chance than the result we actually achieved, dampened our enthusiasm a great deal. We had felt that our popularity had not diminished, but increased in the last phase of the election campaign. Our election meetings were more popular, and we also did well enough in the television debates. Fortunately, our feelings proved to be true. Of course, we did not open any bottles of champagne because we do not regard this as a victory, and this is indeed no victory.

[Karcagi] If that is so, what should we call your election result? An honorable defeat?

[Nyers] An honorable stand in the spirit of the left-wing movement. We were under tremendous pressure from all the opposition parties, we received little coverage in the media, and belittling and often abusive declarations were pouring down on us from some speakers of rival political parties. It is also a fact that we lost the war of election posters. Our opponents put up much more and more aggressive and attractive posters, and we were also lagging behind in other propaganda tricks.

However, as a whole, we did negotiate the obstacles successfully. We turned into a combative and mobile election party. Even if we failed to win, we are still the biggest left-wing force in Hungarian political life. Therefore, at the first presidium meeting following the elections, we felt that we had the right to drink a glass of champagne. It is a great thing that this party has definitely taken root in Hungary.

[Karcagi] Both the domestic and foreign observers think that the successors of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] suffered a crushing defeat. Observers say that the Hungarian people voted against the past 40 years, against communism, and against the Communists.

[Nyers] The defeat of the left wing is very unfortunate, but it is a fact. It is also a fact that the MSZP has not been forced out of Parliament, and thus, we cannot talk about a "crushing defeat." I also admit that the majority of the Hungarian people indeed voted against the past regime and the economic crisis, and against the Communists who were responsible for all this. However, a great number of voters were mistaken in believing the extremely forceful false propaganda that the MSZP is practically identical with the former MSZMP, and that we want to preserve the old party structure and policy. However, we clearly distanced ourselves from the old "party state system." We even distanced ourselves from this more firmly than some of our opponents who sometimes applied certain Bolshevik methods against us in the election campaign.

The MSZP has now won 11 percent of the votes, and we can be certain that these were not opportunist votes. We have now received a minimum number of votes, which with good policies we will be able to substantially increase. However, the victorious parties will have to work very hard to keep their voters. We have thoroughly experienced the difficulty of doing this in the current economic situation, in coordinating the contradictory demands.

[Karcagi] These elections also give us the opportunity to evaluate the period since the first party congress. Looking back at the time, it seems that that congress was characterized by many illusions.

[Nyers] Yes, the great change also led to illusions, and we thought the transition would be smoother. We had tremendous difficulties in the period immediately following the congress because we had to carry out a large-scale political withdrawal: We had to eliminate the workers militia, leave the enterprises, reduce the party apparatus by making sure that we do not make the lives and fate of many people impossible, and we had to account for our property and give it to the state.

In the meantime, we also had to organize the party. It turned out that our ideas concerning the reorganization of the party were not always adequate and these ideas hindered, rather than facilitated, the reorganization of our party. Many party members kept wandering in the country and failed to find their new basic organizations, and, even in January, we still met with people who wanted to join the MSZP but were unable to find out where to register.

They Made Use of Our Mistakes

While we were busy creating the basic organizational and functional conditions from October to January, a series of parliamentary sessions dealing with serious issues came one after the other. This also took up the strength of our party leaders. Thus, we were busy organizing ourselves while we should have been engaging in politics as an organized power. We suffered our first defeat during the referendum on the presidential election.

[Karcagi] I think you must also admit that the opposition engaged in politics quite successfully, among other things by making use of the delay in the issue of accounting for property or of the telephone tapping scandal. How did this new generation of politicians emerge suddenly on the other side?

[Nyers] You are right, I must admit that the opposition engaged in politics successfully against us and made good use of our mistakes. The core of opposition politicians received their training during the scientific and cultural debates, far removed from politics, and some of them became strong and determined in resolute illegal work. The situation today is similar to the one after 1945 when the communists became legal. Great energies are emerging today coupled with an awareness of mission and fanaticism. In addition, the people who are now in power are sometimes characterized by aggressiveness and a strong central management, just as the communists at the time.

[Karcagi] Does this bizarre similarity not project the specter of a new dictatorship, this time a right-wing dictatorship?

[Nyers] An awareness of mission coupled with aggression and intolerance does carry such a danger too. However, I feel that the fact that the Hungarian public has really become disappointed with authoritarianism could provide relative security against a possible dictatorship; in addition, the democratic international conditions currently developing in this part of Europe will also work as a deterrent.

[Karcagi] Yes, but there can be several types of dictatorship....

[Nyers] Indeed, there are various shades of dictatorship. In addition to the Hitlerite dictatorship, there are also various forms of South American regimes, or more acceptable dictatorships like that of Horthy or Salazar. While I do not think that there could be any justification for a total dictatorship, I do think there is a danger of an authoritarian regime coupled with some kind of multiparty system. There could be certain democratic formulas and structures in such a regime, but the possibility of any free opposition would be minimal, and public life would lack any tolerance toward minorities and minority opinions.

[Karcagi] There is almost a consensus in Hungary today on the need for a strong government after the elections. Referring to the prevailing problems, such a strong government could easily make use of dictatorial methods.

[Nyers] In my view, a further deterioration in our economic situation and an increase in social conflicts could lead to this. However, the danger does not lie in a strong government. I must say that I am also for a strong government. However, this should be a democratically supervised power, and should not be able to avoid government responsibility by claiming that the uncertain situation hinders its activity.

[Karcagi] What government coalition do you regard as realistic?

[Nyers] A grand coalition with the cooperation of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] and the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], with the possible inclusion of the Smallholders' Party, is a realistic alternative.

However, a small coalition can also emerge, led by the MDF as against the SZDSZ, but I do not exclude the possibility of a coalition led by the SZDSZ as against the MDF. However, in this case, the government would hardly be able to take the necessary unpopular measures facing us. Therefore, in Hungary's interest, I wish a grand coalition would emerge. However, we socialists will play no role in this, and we will only participate in this process as opposition observers.

Where Is the Left-Wing Nowadays?

[Karcagi] Your opponents have always identified the MSZP with past crimes and mistakes and with communism. Now that they have assumed power, they will have more opportunities to force the MSZP into a corner. Do you have any hopes that the MSZP would eventually break free?

[Nyers] This feeling of being cornered is present today and will be present for a while in the leftist movement. However, in my view, the actual situation is better than we think. I say that the left wing has a rather wide basis in Hungary. This left wing is strongly divided today as a result of the successful policy on the part of our opponents. However, if I add the election proportion of a potential left wing, this makes up 30 percent even in the current situation.

[Karcagi] Whom do you regard as a potential left-wing power?

[Nyers] Among the parties participating in the elections, I would list here the Agricultural Association, the Patriotic Election Coalition, the Hungarian People's Party, the two social democratic parties—the Hungarian Social Democratic Party and the Independent Social Democratic Party—as well as the MSZMP; I also consider the trade unions and the cooperative movement, and all this will add up to about 30 percent.

[Karcagi] Yes, but, while the right-wing is perhaps able to cooperate today, the left-wing is unable to do this for the time being.

[Nyers] Indeed, there are no hopes for cooperation among the left-wing movements immediately after the elections. The left is now living through a big defeat. Only the MSZP was able to make it into Parliament. Therefore, it is our responsibility not only to represent our party policy in Parliament and outside, but also to seek contact points among left-wing movements and to count and rely on common interests. This attitude might lead to a new type of cooperation in future. This is also a fundamental interest of our party because, on our own, we would be unable to become a political force which represents a realistic alternative to the bourgeois government currently being formed.

[Karcagi] Is the MSZP suitable both organizationally and spiritually for the role of opposition today?

[Nyers] Yes, it is already suitable for this. The party has become politically coordinated and organizationally strengthened in the election campaign.

[Karcagi] A few months ago, the party seemed to be torn by strong fault lines.

[Nyers] These fault lines existed mostly between figures in the party and not in the principles. I did not notice any deep political substance in these conflicts. Practically everyone says the same thing, but every platform and every single trend thought they were saying it more genuinely.

In addition to personal suspicions, the internal conflicts were also increased by the fact that we were both a governing party and a non-governining party. The lack of clarity in relations between the party and the government was so deeply ingrained in our movement that it caused serious disturbances. However, the fact that de facto we were already in opposition while de jure we were still in power led to the tension.

The Presidium Is United

The fault lines within the party do not go along this line but between reform communism and social democracy. Many people claim that these two trends are incompatible. Not as a party chairman, but simply as a politician, I think that reform communism is not an independent political formation, it could not become one. Because of historical developments, reform communism has lost the battle here in Eastern Europe. It failed to establish itself either philosophically or politically. The basic values of socialist-social democracy have also been asserted in this part of Europe.

However, the reform communists accepted the fact that communism is no longer on the agenda here, and they dropped the need for the dictatorship of the proletariat, they are not breaking the socialist party apart, and they are finding their place and the opportunity for creative activity in this party, as a radical socialist trend.

Besides, I regard the existence of various trends in the party as natural. This is a source of power, rather than a waste of power. The party should have a social democratic trend, a self-government and self-management trend close to the cooperative socialism, and also a trend that conducts a socialist-social democratic policy, but which does not discard the idea of a greater and radical equality either. There are such trends not only here but also in the big western socialist-social democratic parties. These are not fault lines that could lead to a split in the party, and this is the essential thing.

[Karcagi] Is the Presidium united?

[Nyers] Basically, it is. This is a unity achieved from plurality. There are also Presidium members—let me refrain from naming names—who also have views that are not mature enough, but these people do not endanger our unity. It is a fact, however, that the Presidium is a little slow in making decisions, primarily because of the large number of members.

[Karcagi] What about those people who distanced themselves from the party leadership during the election campaign?

[Nyers] Whom do you have in mind?

[Karcagi] Miklos Nemeth and Matyas Szuros.

[Nyers] Our relations with them have already been clarified, and both are participating in Presidium meetings. Both of them were forced to distance themselves from the party in order to be able to fulfill their parliamentary functions more adequately. Besides, all of us—Nemeth, Szuros, Pozsgay, Horn, and myself—had appearances in which the party membership saw some confrontation and which, naturally, the opposition quickly made use of, playing them against us with a good tactical sense. In my view, despite appearances, these five people understood each other during the election campaign.

[Karcagi] Does that mean that Szuros and Nemeth are Presidium members?

[Nyers] No, they participate in our meetings as guests, but we count on their opinions, just as we count on the opinions of the Presidium members. We are now considerably distancing ourselves from the Stalinist structure in which the party was everything and the parliament was nothing. We have decided now that the party's parliamentary deputies and the local self-government officials are full members of the party leadership. The candidates who did not make it into Parliament should also have a leading role in the party.

[Karcagi] Let me ask you about your personal ambitions. What are your future plans in the MSZP leadership?

[Nyers] I will say the same thing today as I said last year: I am already at the end of the "race" in Hungarian political life, and I am preparing for a change.

MSZP News Conference on Elections, Papers

LD0604025690 Budapest MTI in English 1900 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—The Hungarian Socialist Party [HSP—MSZP] proposes for the second round of the elections that voters who cast their ballots for HSP candidates in the first round, and in whose constituency there is no HSP candidate for the second round, should not vote for candidates of parties that sought to raise their popularity by slandering the socialists, said Viktor Polgar, spokesman of the HSP, quoting the letter of party President Rezso Nyers addressed to the voters, at a press conference on Thursday.

Mr Polgar noted that the more than 500,000 votes cast for the HSP in the first round indicates that the socialist cannot be forced out of Hungarian public life.

The situation of the provincial newspapers was also discussed. (The county newspapers are owned by the HSP, and the Springer concern has begun to purchase these newspapers, which has led to the recent scandal.) Mr Polgar said the Socialist Party did not sell the newspapers, it was forced to face the fact that the several editorial offices simply left them and signed contracts in force between the Socialist Party and the Springer concern, and the HSP is to hold talks with the Budapest representative of Springer on Monday, to clear up the situation.

Andras Fabriczky, head of the HSP economic office, said they have still not been able to find a solution to counter the Springer action. (There is no clear-cut regulation in Hungarian law for the situation that has now come about.) Inasmuch as the representative of the Springer concern does not offer a fair sum to the HSP for the damage, the party will turn to the courts and will try to get back at least the intangible value of the newspapers.

Smallholders Party Lowers Election Expectations

LD0504220690 Budapest MTI in English 1450 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—The leaders of the Independent Smallholders' Party (ISP) [FKGP] are less optimistic before the second round of the elections since their party won much fewer votes in the first round than expected, ISP Deputy President Gyorgy Balogh told MTI on Thursday.

In the first round, the ISP won 16 mandates on regional lists. Although the party originally expected to secure 100 to 110 parliamentary seats, now they would be satisfied if they won more than 50 mandates.

According to the Smalholders' calculation, 17 ISP candidates will be elected on the national list, and 20 in individual constituencies.

Mr Balogh said the ISP expected to win altogether 53 parliamentary seats and finish as the third strongest party in the elections.

Szuros Speaks at Election Rally in Zalaegerszeg

LD0504092490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] (Elemer Heckler) reports on the latest steps taken by the Socialist Party in the election campaign:

[Heckler] Matyas Szuros participated in a white-collar forum in Zalaegerszeg, then he spoke to the public at the Hungarian Socialist Party [MSZP] mass rally organized in the spirit of the election campaign.

Emphasizing the significance of the second round elections on 8 April, he recommended Dr. (Lidia Racz) nee Karasz to the attention of the electorate of Zalaegerszeg, who, in the colors of the MSZP, obtained third place in the first round of 25 March elections in the county seat of Zalaegerszeg. As the closing act of the visit, Matyas Szuros will hold a press conference in Zalaegerszeg at 1830 [1630 GMT].

Holds News Conference

LD0504160390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Report on news conference with interim President Matyas Szuros by correspondent (Elmer Ekler) in Zalaegerszeg; date not given]

[Text] Interim President Matyas Szuros ended his one-day visit to Zala with a news conference, stretching into the late evening. I was eager to know his opinion on his party's county election results, especially since the collapse of the previous, rigid party guidance system first took place in this very county. The fact that the socialists in Zala could not manage to get any of their candidates into parliament on the regional list surprised Matyas Szuros. Apart from this he thinks that the party has gradually found its place in the course of the election campaign. He is convinced that this process will continue in Zala and in the whole country in the second round of the elections. The electors have been mediating after the first round. Many things happened in the last few days, which they did not expect. Many of them realized that there was also an ambitious Hungarian Socialist Party, which intends to be among the followers of a progressive Europe and left-wing parties. This is encouraging prior to the second round on 8 April, Matyas Szuros said in conclusion.

MDF Announces Alliance With Smallholders

LD0404221490 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The country needs a strong government and a strong opposition. This is what Jozsef Antall, chairman of the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], emphasized, at the party's headquarters on Bem Square [in Budapest]. He also said that there is no question that the MDF might have leanings toward becoming an introverted, inward-looking party. The party chairman also made another important announcement at the briefing.

[Begin Antall recording] We have just received notification from the Independent Smallholders' Party, in which, after the presidium, the expanded political committee has passed the decision. They have confirmed the electoral alliance concluded with the MDF and the Christian Democratic People's Party. [end recording]

Speaking about the details, Jozsef Antall underlined that all members of the triple electoral alliance will respect the agreements their base organizations concluded before 30 March. We are preparing for Sunday, with the support of the [association of] Political Prisoners, the Recsk Association and the Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Society, the party chairman continued. He did not go into details on the possible coalitions after the elections, but in reply to a question he recognized the Smallholders' natural claim to the agricultural portfolio.

Young Democrats Report Campaign 'Abuses'

LD0504215990 Budapest MTI in English 1438 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—At variance with is original plan, the Federation of Young Democrats (FYD) will not stage a demonstration in front of the Budapest Embassy of Romania on Thursday. The Young Democrats changed their mind when they learnt that irredentist and separatist groups would be going to hold a simultaneous demonstration at the same place, Tamas Deutsch, FYD board member, told the press on Thursday.

In their last press conference before the second round of the elections, the Young Democrats spoke about some abuses experienced during the campaign.

Two FYD candidates reported that in two provincial constituencies the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] called upon the electors not to cast their votes on the FYD candidates who had already won mandates on the regional party list. The Forum argued that should the HDF candidate be elected, both towns would be represented by two MPs [members of parliament].

Jozsef Szajer, the Young Democrats' candidate in Sopron, said that negative campaign was based on the misinterpretation of law.

News Briefing by Young Democrats Spokesman

LD0504215490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] Representatives of the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] have also met the press this morning. Julia Torda reports.

[Torda] FIDESZ is the fifth most significant political force in Hungary today. During the election campaign the membership of FIDESZ tripled. At the moment, the organization has more than 8,000 members, says Andras Bozoki, press spokesman, who after 8 April will return to a university post. This was the last press conference of FIDESZ before the second round of elections.

Regarding the statement by the Openness Club which was disclosed on television the other day, Andras Bozoki said the FIDESZ protests against interference with the board supervising radio and television in the election campaign. In their opinion, this is another indication of the fact that the board should have been dissolved long ago. One of our greatest worries, continued the spokesman, is that on 30 April FIDESZ's contract on the rented halls is going to run out and, for the time being, it seems that in May we will carry out political work on the sidewalk.

In connection with a concrete matter, Tamas Deutsch said that in certain schools, children are made to take off the badges of the organization by saying that the law bans political activity in the workplaces. The organization protests against this because, as he said, the FIDESZ badge is also part of the clothing.

Free Democrats Prepare Economic Program

LD0504215390 Budapest MTI in English
1312 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—The Free Democrats are preparing an economic government program, enabling them to hold talks with the eventual coalition partners after the run-off of the elections on the basis of concrete documents, AFD spokesman Ivan Peto told a press conference on April 5. The Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ] will discuss the program with the independent trade unions and other representative organizations, he said.

Mr Peto announced that seven gypsy organizations issued a statement, asking their members and supporters to cast their ballots on the AFD candidates in the April 8 elections. The alliance undertook to delegate four gypsy deputies to parliament on its regional and national lists.

So far, the alliance has concluded electoral alliances with the Federation of Young Democrats and several provincial organizations of the Independent Smallholders' Party (ISP) [FKGP]. The sides agreed to withdraw their candidates in one another's favor. (Although the national ISP headquarters concluded an electoral alliance with the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) [MDF], it allowed its county organizations to choose their allies as they wish.)

Acting AFD president Janos Kis said his party and the smalholders held identical views on the old party state, the market-based economy, the dominance of private ownership, and the future political system of Hungary. As to the land issue, the views of the smallholders and the AFD do not differ more than those of the smallholders and the HDF, Mr Kis said.

Mr Kis went on to say that Hungary required a parliamentary rotating system, including a governing party and an opposition able to govern. Still, the AFD cannot rule out the possibility of taking part in a coalition government since the March 25 elections made it obvious that neither of the two big parties would be able to secure a strong parliamentary majority without the support of the other, Mr Kis said. This makes the general public anxious and might become a destabilizing factor. The AFD is also responsible for the country's governability, the acting president of the AFD said.

Mr Kis said that in their view the new parliament would be convened by the interim president of the republic. Parliament will elect a speaker by seniority, who will remain in the chair until parliament elects its speaker. The new speaker will automatically take over the functions of the interim president of the republic and, as its first task, commission the president of the largest parliamentary party to form a government.

People's Party To Support Democratic Forum

LD0504224190 Budapest MTI in English
1648 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—"The membership of the Hungarian People's Party is to support candidates of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Christian Democratic People's Party and the Independent Smallholders' Party in the second round of the Hungarian elections on Sunday, April 8," said party president Gyula Fekete.

However, the Hungarian People's Party will cast its votes for the Independent Smallholders' Party (ISP) [FKGP] candidates only in the constituencies where the ISP has not formed an election alliance with the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD) [SZDSZ]. The reason for this is that the position of the AFD and the Federation of Young Democrats in the evaluation of certain vital issues shows the greatest difference from that of the Hungarian People's Party's approach.

Kirolay Speaks at Nicosia IPU meeting

LD0504214990 Budapest MTI in English
1443 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Nicosia, April 5 (MTI)—Contributing to the 83rd conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] in Nicosia, Zoltan Kiraly, member of the Hungarian delegation, said that there had been a silent revolution and a peaceful change of system in Hungary and the country had become part of Europe.

Mr Kiraly informed the inter-parliamentary conference that Hungary and the Soviet Union had concluded an inter-governmental agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed temporarily in Hungary. The Hungarian MP [member of parliament] proposed that by 1995, the 50th anniversary of the end of the second world war, all foreign troops stationed in Europe should be withdrawn and the NATO and the Warsaw Treaty dissolved.

Hungary is making efforts to codify the individual and collective rights of the national minorities, Mr Kiraly said. It strives to maintain a continuous dialogue with the neighbouring countries having Hungarian minorities. However, this dialogue cannot replace the internal actions of the countries concerned, and their measures aimed at the minorities' legal and physical protection.

After the Council of Europe has elaborated the Charter of Nationality and Minority Languages, it should make further steps towards enforcing minority rights in Europe, Mr Kiraly said.

Security Service Official on Intelligence Activity

AU0504101290 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Apr 90 pp 1,7

[Report on interview with National Security Office Chairman Lajos Nagy by Peter Vajda in Budapest on 31 March: "Hungarian Counterintelligence Is Keeping Former Securitate Officers Under Surveillance"]

[Excerpts] The change in the political regime is taking place peacefully but not in an idyllic way or without threat. The secret service activity in charge of Hungary's security, including counterintelligence and anti-terrorist activity, is no longer under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry, and has been transferred to the National Security Office. We interviewed the head of this office, Lajos Nagy.

[Vajda] Mr. Nagy, the press reported on the threat addressed to Alajos Chrudinak [Budapest television "Panorama" program chief], and on his protection provided by your office together with the police. Are there many such cases? Are government members also threatened?

[Nagy] Beginning with the end of your question, members of the Council of Ministers also receive threatening letters, often death threats too. Similar cases occur almost daily in every country in the world, and this requires the physical protection of certain figures in high positions. This activity is primarily carried out by the government guard of the Interior Ministry. Given its nature, the task of the National Security Office is to investigate the various reports. It can be generally stated that there is a certain tradition in Hungary for anonymous threatening letters with false senders' addresses and for telephone threats. These are probably aimed at upsetting and threatening people, like the phone calls prior to bomb scares. There were 500 such cases in 1989, fortunately all proved to be false threats. These acts also aim at preventing someone from doing something. The threatening letter addressed to Alajos Chrudinak must have had the same goal. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] How dangerous are the terrorist threats? Has Hungary avoided such threats for the time being?

[Nagy] In my opinion and according to my experience, the international organized underworld will not avoid Hungary. This underworld deals with drug traffic and arms trade, and this activity finances terrorism. A main department of our office deals with discovering and avoiding such acts. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] What measures do you take against fanatic terrorists?

[Nagy] Several bodies carry out their own tasks, just like the National Security Office. Once we noticed an increase in threats, we contacted one of our West European counterparts and sent our experts there to acquaint themselves with the know-how of one of the airports equipped with the most modern security equipment. We have learned a lot, and there are things we have already applied here too. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] Let me deal with another subject often discussed by the press. Is counterintelligence still needed, an activity that belongs to your office?

[Nagy] Let the readers decide on that according to the facts. Hungarian citizens come to us almost daily and tell us that they have been approached by foreign intelligence services.

[Vajda] Where are these offers made, at home or abroad?

[Nagy] Both at home and abroad.

[Vajda] What intelligence services are involved in such attempts?

[Nagy] Every country that is interested in Hungary. Never before have we experienced such a great number of offers.

[Vajda] If I am not wrong, you were also an intelligence officer before, and thus, you are a professional: What is the reason behind this great interest?

[Nagy] It is important for the intelligence agencies in question to get secret information from the future government apparatus and from our political and economic life. Generally, these agencies approach two types of people: people who they think might make it into a leading position, and people who they think are suitable for this activity due to their deteriorated financial conditions. [passage omitted]

[Vajda] By the way, in connection with the affair of the Securitate agent Lemperger who was twice sent to Hungary to operate and who continued to be employed by his superiors after the revolution in December, our newspaper was also criticized by the Romanian authorities who claimed that the agent we had written about was a common swindler.

[Nagy] Intelligence agencies rarely admit things. Therefore, this initial reaction is not surprising at all. If Lemperger had not been engaged in intelligence activity, it would have been rather difficult to explain the fact that he registered in Hungary as a refugee twice with two different passports, and he was employed in two jobs. Besides, he was only one among many such agents, the so-called mass agents. We are keeping under surveillance much more qualified persons—former Securitate officers and agents—who are suspected of spying. If we can prove this, we will take the adequate legal measures. Besides, Romanian secret service activity against Hungary continues, and this is also clear from the fact that, among the aforementioned attempts to recruit people, there is a case connected to a former high-ranking Securitate officer. [passage omitted]

Interior Ministry Talks With Austria on Refugees

LD0504205490 Budapest MTI in English 1140 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest. April 5 (MTI)—Zoltan Gal, state secretary and acting head of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior, paid a visit to Vienna on April 4 at the invitation of Franz Losch, minister of the interior. The sides discussed refugee affairs concerning the two countries, and agreed to continue the negotiations on expert level.

Situation Developing in Lithuania Analyzed

AU0504104790 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 31 Mar 90 p 2

[Andrej Kiss editorial: "Lithuania's Solitude"]

[Text] For weeks, the world has been talking about the big Germany, until the situation in one of the Baltic Republics in the Soviet Union—Lithuania—became serious.

While press reports in the case of Germany were speaking of the great embrace, in the case of Lithuania, reports talk about the discord preceding the divorce. World news reports apply dozens of attributes in describing the situation in Lithuania, and the word "tragic" seems to best characterize Vilnius' position at the end of March.

Disregarding the political realities and listening only to our hearts, our sympathy toward the efforts of a small country similar to Hungary is natural. We can easily listen to our hearts on this issue, but the Lithuanians themselves cannot do the same. Unfortunately, it seems that the new leaders in Vilnius listened to their hearts more than to their minds, and their current situation derives directly from this. What is it all about?

The Sajudis achieved a landslide victory in the Lithuanian parliamentary elections. One could already predict at the time that the two-thirds parliamentary majority calling for independence would bring the issue to a parliament decision in a very short time. This took place on 11 March, when Lithuania declared its independence, abrogated the constitution, and restored the constitution adopted in 1939.

At that time, Moscow only called the Lithuanian decision illegal. A series of meetings between leaders and experts followed. In one of his evaluations, President Gorbachev said that it is impossible to decide on this question unilaterally, claiming that no matter how bad it has been, this marriage can end only with a divorce. The new Lithuanian president, Vytautas Landsbergis, answered that there can be no talk of divorce because there was no legal marriage. At the time, Vilnius was sending very firm replies to Moscow. The real turning point came when Gorbachev presented the detailed costs of independence. The final sum of the aforementioned list stood at R21 billion. Perhaps this figure was not the only thing that forced the Lithuanian leadership to compromise.

The precise reason is that, given their quality, the industrial and agricultural goods produced in Lithuania can only be sold in the Soviet Union. The Soviet market is already vital for Lithuania. It seems that Vilnius has lost not only its trump cards but also its normal cards in this phase of the game. Gorbachev had no difficulty in promising that they would not apply military force. Moscow does not need military force at all. It is enough to slightly reduce the central supply of energy, and the Lithuanian industry will collapse immediately. However, it seems that Moscow is refraining from making use of this possibility. The Soviet leadership is offering a mechanism of negotiations extended for at least five years by which Moscow could win time.

The roots of Landsbergis' efforts for independence derive from the general situation prevailing in the Soviet Union. Breaking up the feudal system of relations between the republics and the central power, legalizing the multiparty system already existing in some places, and instituting a big modern federative power, Gorbachev and his followers could win the game. Probably Moscow intends to drag out the time until staying within the federation becomes attractive.

Global politics is the other factor in the Lithuanian tragedy. Other signs warning the Lithuanians had already appeared before the period chosen as most suitable for a split. All the three Baltic republics have traditional close ties with the Scandinavian states. Vilnius hoped that Helsinki and Stockholm would give Lithuania a helping hand, just like Bonn is helping Berlin. However, last year, the Finnish and Swedish leaders were precisely the ones who made it clear that they were not interested in the creation of mini-states in the Baltic. Naturally, they do not want to jeopardize their presence in the huge Soviet market.

However, the Lithuanian Republic got the biggest slap in its face from Washington. As is well known, the United States have never recognized the Baltic republics as part of the Soviet Union, but, because global political interests today demand it, Washington refrains from embracing even the Lithuanians who have declared their own independence, all the more so because to do this, Washington would have to leave Moscow's friendly right hand, something achieved with difficulty. Washington contented itself with warning Moscow of the consequences of a military aggression. President Bush has good enough working contacts with Gorbachev to be more informed than anyone else. Therefore, Bush knows that those sitting at the other end of the hot line will not choose the Panama scenario.

Organization Formed To Monitor Soviet Withdrawal

LD0504201590 Budapest MTI in English
1918 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—The Council of Ministers recently discussed and approved the tasks related to the withdrawal of Soviet troops temporarily stationed in Hungary. As part of this, it has appointed Brigadier General Antal Annus, general deputy of the chief of staff of the Hungarian Army, as government commissioner, and Imre Karacsony, chief of division at the National Planning Office, as deputy of the government commissioner.

Although most of the tasks related to the Soviet troops withdrawal are of a military-technical nature, these affect almost all ministries and many national authorities, said Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman of the Ministry of Defence, in an interview with MTI.

Mr Keleti said an inter-ministerial committee was set up on Thursday in the Ministry of Defence under the leadership of the government commissioner. The members of the committee include representatives of the various ministries and several national authorities. The basic task of the committee is to far-reachingly enforce the interests of the Republic of Hungary in the various partial issues and regarding the entire troops withdrawal. The government commissioner said that 43 Soviet military trains had left Hungary by Thursday morning.

Soviet Officer on Withdrawal of Troops

AU0504125590 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 4 Apr 90 pp 1,3

[Report on interview with Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Soviet Southern Army Group, by Csaba Poor on 3 April; place not given: "The Generals Did Not Oppose It"]

[Excerpts] Some 166 tanks, 212 trucks and mortars, a total of 1,354 people, 123 officers, 53 ensigns, 936 conscripts, two civilian employees, and some 250 family members left Hungary on 16 military trains on 3 April [figures as published]. The withdrawal of Soviet troops is going according to schedule —Matvey Burlakov, the government commissioner in charge of the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary, said in an interview granted to MAGYAR HIRLAP on the eve of 4 April.

[Poor] Not so long ago, hardly one and a half years ago, during an interview with MAGYAR HIRLAP, a high-ranking Soviet general firmly rejected even the idea of Soviet troops withdrawing from Hungary, and said that the Warsaw Pact had already made enough unilateral concessions to NATO. Now, after a few months of negotiations, the final withdrawal of Soviet troops has begun. One can easily have the impression that the decision has been made exclusively by the politicians, and, had it been for the generals, the Soviet troops would continue to be deployed in Hungary.

[Burlakov] No, this is not so. Before making such a decision, the political leaders naturally consult the Army, and the soldiers expressed their opinions in this case too.

As for the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of the Hungarian Republic, we discussed this matter even before 1989. As early as in 1985, the Soviet Union proposed withdrawing foreign troops from Europe by 1995-96, and eliminating every foreign military base by the turn of the century. The partial troop withdrawal carried out in several East European countries in 1989 served this goal. [passage omitted]

[Poor] Does that mean that you no longer fear upsetting the balance of forces in Europe?

[Burlakov] The troops to be withdrawn from Hungary represent a considerable army group trained for action under modern conditions. This army group consists of almost 50,000 soldiers, some 27,000 units of combat technology, including more than 800 tanks, 1,200 armored vehicles, more than 250 airplanes and helicopters, and also 560,000 tonnes of various military and equipment and fuel.

From a purely military point of view, the withdrawal of such an army group naturally upsets the balance of forces, all the more so because NATO had an advantage in southern Europe even before the withdrawal. However, we take it into consideration that, nowadays, the security of a country can be guaranteed today not only by military means, but also by political ones. The Soviet Union does not intend to solve international problems by military means today or in the future. In this area, we count on positive steps in response from NATO. [passage omitted]

[Poor] Thus, the staff of generals did not come up with any opposition to this withdrawal?

[Burlakov] No, and they will not oppose it in the future either. [passage omitted]

[Poor] Do you think your relations with the population in Hungary have always been good?

[Burlakov] As a whole, our relations with the population have been good. Naturally, there are always problems where there are young people together. For instance, we had cases of traffic accidents that threw a bad light on us at one time. However, I think we have no reasons to doubt our friendship. [passage omitted]

[Poor] How much does this withdrawal cost, and who will cover the expenses?

[Burlakov] The expenses incurred in maintaining our troops are entirely covered by the Soviet Government. We allocate 300 million transferable rubles for this annually, which is more than 6.5 billion forints. We spent close to 2 billion forints annually only to maintain and renew the assets of the Southern Army Group, and the various services cost us more than 1 billion forints annually, and the railway transportation cost us 234 million forints. I could continue the list of expenses. For transportation, we pay from the Soviet Defense Ministry budget and through foreign trade.

We have set up various installations on our own. Their value stands at several tens of billions of forints. Thus, we built 370 blocks of flats with 14,500 apartments, more than 100 military barracks with 17,000 places, 70 canteens for 24,000 people, and many other installations. Many organizations, cooperatives, and firms are interested in these installations. We have also received offers to buy part of our technical installations, various installations, hospitals, and schools. Naturally, we will hand over everything we have been renting from the Hungarian Government, in accordance with the existing agreements. [passage omitted]

Soviet Envoy Places Wreath at Soldiers Memorial

LD0504125190 Budapest MTI in English 2022 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 4 (MTI)—Although April 4 is not a state holiday in Hungary this year, wreath-laying ceremonies were held on Wednesday on the occasion of liberation from under fascism.

Soviet ambassador to Hungary Boris Stukalin placed flowers at the memorial of Soviet heroes. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party [HSWP—MSZMP], party president Gyula Thurmer placed a wreath. Representatives of the Ferenc Munich Society and the Federation of Hungarian Anti-Fascists and Resistance fighters also placed wreaths.

In the afternoon, a rally was held in the district VII organizaiton of the HSWP to commemorate April 4. Mr Thurmer stressed that the defeat suffered by the Central-Eastern European left-wing has effects on the entire European left-wing movement. Genuine danger threatens the European left-wing in the broader sense, including the social democrats, he noted.

European Guests Attend Democratic Forum Rally

LD0604054790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 5 apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] A rally was held this evening by the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF], which was attended by noted foreign guests, too, Miklos Lengyel reports.

[Lengyel] Europe is with us, the United States is with us, and the free world will not desert us. This is what Jozsef Antall said to great applause at the Budapest rally of the MDF. The festive hall of the Jozsef Attila Grammar School was bedecked with British, French, and German banners, alongside the Hungarian flags. The guests of the rally had come from these three countries: Alfred Dregger, head of the FRG CDU-CSU [Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union] parliamentary group: Giscard d'Estaing, former French head of state; and Sir Christopher Prout, from Great Britain, who is now president of the European Parliament's democratic group.

The West German speaker said he had brought a letter from Chancellor Kohl to Jozsef Antall, in which he assured the MDF leader of his friendship and support. Dregger emphasized the Germans were grateful to Hungary because this country played no small part in the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. There is a place in Europe for Hungary, just like, let us say, for England, said the West German leader.

Giscard d'Estaing introduced himself in Hungarian. He then said that according to a Hungarian friend of his, the condition of unreciprocated love is characteristic between the two states. He hastened to affirm that this is not so. At present, Hungary can count on great sympathy in France.

At the news conference after the rally, I asked the former French president that France had supported the little entente between the two wars; had this situation now changed? Giscard emphasized the priorities in France are now different. For this reason, it places Hungary in first place, in Europe's eastern half, because the democratic turnaround got under way here first.

I asked Jozsef Antall whether he is not afraid an alliance similar to the little entente might come about out of the neighboring countries in which a considerable Magyar minority lives. The MDF chairman replied that he was concerned because of this, but he hoped that common sense would gain the upper hand and that the democratic forces would also be victorious in these countries.

The European Parliament's democratic group president presented a flag of Europe as a gift to the MDF, and he said that just today the European Parliament had discussed the Romanian situation, which had developed in the wake of the drama in Tirgu Mures. It had taken the stand that the human rights of every ethnic group should be recognized in Romania.

MDF News Conference Supports Romanian Gypsies

LD0404131590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] [Announcer] The Hungarian Democratic Conference [MDF] is holding a news conference this morning. Jozsef Orosz reports from the scene.

[Orosz] The Hungarian Democratic Forum noted with astonishment that after the interparty talks yesterday on election ethics the SZDSZ [Alliance of Free Democrats] is continuing to put up posters on which the pictures of Tamas Raj and Laszlo Tokes can be seen together. The MDF is of the opinion that Laszlo Tokes is the symbol of universal Magyardom, and those who use this for party purposes are damaging Magyardom, the cause of Transylvania, and Laszlo Tokes. At the same time, the claim which can be read on the poster, that the Independent Smallholders' Party supports Tamas Raj, is not true.

At the morning news conference, the MDF protested in a statement against the fact that Gypsies have been sentenced in connection with the Tirgu Mures pogrom in March. The Forum, the whole Magyar nation, the peoples of Hungary, think of the Gypsies with deep respect and gratitude for their noble deed in hurrying to the aid of the Magyars, writes the statement. The Democratic Forum demands the annulment of the Tirgu Mures sentences which are anti-Gypsy, also anti-Magyar, and at the same time an offense to humanity, and that those condemned should be set free.

In connection with the Springer scandal, the MDF stance was that they will investigate this later. The affair is not the focus of their attention at the moment, but at the same time, it is a question of MSZP [Hungarian Socialist Party] assets which have not been accounted for.

Anti-Romanian Protesters in Budapest Removed

AU3103145790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1759 GMT 30 Mar 90

["Transylvania: Steps by Hungarian Authorities"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 30/3/1990—On the night of 27 to 28 March 1990, after eight days and nights, Hungarian authorities sent away a group of people on a hunger strike in front of the Romanian Embassy in Budapest. Inciting anti-Romanian posters were torn away from the fence of the Romanian mission's building and several Hungarian flags flown there were taken away. A black-ribboned flag was also removed. Furthermore, special municipality teams repainted the base of the fence around the mission's building thus wiping out the grafitti on it.

The group moved on to a side street without any visual propaganda aid.

People Urged To Avoid Rally at Romanian Embassy

LD0404224990 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Late this afternoon, the Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] board sent a statement to our studio, according to which two groups of FIDESZ called for a demonstration for 5 April, that is for tomorrow, at 1800, in front of the Romanian Embassy.

The statement says: It has come to our knowledge that extremist circles have called for a provocative demonstration at the same time and place, which is quite contrary to our aims. Therefore, we appeal to our membership, the Gypsy organizations, and the national parties to stay away from this demonstration and to disassociate themselves from these circles in the interest of easing the tension developed in Romania and that of the Magyarhood of Transylvania.

[Signed] The National Board of FIDESZ and the Radical Faction of FIDESZ.

Bekesi Talks in Iraq Lead to Financial Accord

LD0404135590 Budapest MTI in English 1236 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, April 4 (MTI)—The economic and financial negotiations Laszlo Bekesi, Hungarian minister of finance, held in Baghdad from April 1-4 led to an agreement that Iraq will pay back its debts.

In addition to having talks with Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade and acting minister of finance, the Hungarian finance minister was also received by Taha Yassin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Iraq, and Sa'adoun Hammadi, deputy prime minister responsible for economic and financial affairs.

Present at the talks was Tamas Varga, Hungarian ambassador to Iraq. Under the protocol signed on the talks on Tuesday [3 April], the Iraqi side undertook to repay the debts they owe Hungary—totalling almost 20 million dollars—between this May and the end of the year.

The talks also touched upon a potential long-term oil agreement.

His talks in Iraq over, Mr Bekesi went on to Kuwait on Wednesday [4 April].

Economic Chamber Favors Austerity Budget

LD0404132590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] The new government must get down to drastic economic policy steps, Deputy Chairman Laszlo Fodor said at a news conference. To assist in this, the Economic Chamber is also setting out a professional analysis and suggestions. Their most important provision is that, from 1 June, a new austerity budget must be introduced, which should contain a 5-10 percent general tax reduction and a radical curtailment of state administration costs. The opinion of those in the chamber is that the sums thus obtained should be used for the support of ventures and the facilitation of market reorientation for viable enterprises.

The economic chamber leaders do not regard the matter of Soviet exports as concluded, for according to their information, despite the framework agreements, the Soviet side is rejecting the supply of increasing batches of goods, saying they do not need these products at the moment. Thus the chamber advises the new government to consider the lifting of the export ban, at the same time introducing the ruble money market in Hungary, where the forint- ruble exchange rate would be determined automatically on the basis of supply and demand.

More Joint Ventures With New Zealand Urged

LD0504210290 Budapest MTI in English 1148 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Budapest, April 5, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—New Zealand's trade minister, Mike Moore, held talks with his Hungarian counterpart Tamas Beck in Budapest on Thursday at which Mr Moore expressed some concern at Hungary's attempts to establish closer links with the EC, as well as the fact that the EC has granted agricultural preferences to Hungary.

Tamas Beck, however, reaffirmed Hungary's continued membership of the Cairns group, pointing out that international trade in agricultural products without subsidies was of reciprocal interest to all countries involved in the group.

Despite some growth lately, CEMA countries still play only a marginal role in New Zealand's trade, and trade with Hungary is actually slightly down.

Last year Hungarian exports to New Zealand were worth $1.51 million, compared to $1.56 million in 1989, while imports were down from $2.9 to $2.42 million. New Zealand accounts for 0.02 per cent of Hungarian exports and 0.03 per cent of imports.

The two trade ministers agreed on the need to set up more joint ventures, particularly ones relying on New Zealand's advanced agricultural and food industry technology, while there are also prospects that Hungary will deliver more trams, trolleybuses and buses to New Zealand.

Agreement on Agriculture

LD0504210790 Budapest MTI in English 1729 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Budapest, April 5 (MTI)—Hungarian Minister of Agriculture and Food Csaba Hutter and [New Zealand Trade Minister] Michael Moore signed an agreement on Thursday. Under its terms, New Zealand is to assist Hungarian agriculture in the framework of the assistance program of the OECD countries. The assistance program consists of a technical development fund worth 250,000 New Zealand dollars, and an educational and extension training fund worth 125,000 New Zealand dollars, for use in Hungarian agriculture.

Jaruzelski Meets FRG's Lafontaine

LD0504211890 Warsaw PAP in English
0959 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—President Wojciech Jaruzelski received here today Saarland's minister-president and deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party Oskar Lafontaine who is now on a visit to Poland.

Lafontaine Supports Poland in Border Question

AU0504203890 Hamburg DPA in German
1504 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw (DPA)—Oskar Lafontaine, candidate of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] for the chancellor's office, supports the most important points of the Polish Government's position on Germany policy. He stated to the press in Warsaw on Thursday [5 April] that the SPD's position on Poland's western border is clear: This border must be recognized "without reservation." He supported the Polish Government's wish to participate in the negotiations of the two German states and the four great powers ("two plus four") in the questions concerning Poland and its demand for the conclusion of a border treaty.

The SPD shares the opinion that "negotiations with the two German Governments must be started soon to sign the end product of the negotiations." "In agreement with the Bundestag Group," the Social Democrats in East Berlin will soon present a resolution "which will also state the irrevocability of Poland's western border" in the People's Chamber.

Lafontaine, who held talks with Presient Wojciech Jaruzelski, Solidarity Group leader Bronislaw Geremek, and Catholic Bishop Jerzy Dabrowksi on Thursday and had met Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki and Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski on Wednesday, presented his ideas on the formation of a German-Polish brigade during the course of many talks. He affirmed that the pushing forward of NATO troops to the Oder-Neisse border cannot be the answer to the developments in East Europe. The security interests of the Soviet Union and Germany's neighbors have to be taken into consideration. His visit to Poland was his first official visit to East Europe.

In Warsaw Lafontaine also held talks with representatives of the three social-democratic oriented parties, among them the successor party of the Communists. He will return to the FRG on Friday.

PAP Reviews Lafontaine's Warsaw Talks

LD0604033190 Warsaw PAP in English
2002 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski received here today Minister-President of Saarland and SPD [Social Democratic Party] Deputy Chairman Oskar Lafontaine.

The talk focused on the relations between Poland and the FRG, as well as on their future and the role in shaping a new peaceful order in Europe.

President Wojciech Jaruzelski said in order to direct relations between Poles and Germans to the future it is necessary to eliminate all conflict and disputable issues, in particular all understatements and ambiguities concernng the border on the Odra and Nysa rivers. Strong, sovereign and democratic Poland in durable and guaranteed borders and with effective economy lies in Europe's interest, stressed he.

Oskar Lafontaine confirmed the stance voiced by the SPD which was firmly coming out in favour of granting Poland treaty guarantees on the border on the Odra and Nysa rivers and securing Poland's interests in the long run as a significant partner of unifying Germany in the process of pan-European unification.

Also today, Oskar Lafontaine met with Bronislaw Geremek, chairman of the Citizens' Parliamenary Floor Group (OKP).

"We discussed the significance of Europe's political and economic integrity. Today, Poland's participation in the '4 plus 2' conference and a peaceful treaty which would unequivocally define the Polish-German border become a part of such a programme of Europe's political integrity. The Polish point of view met with deep understanding of the SPD candidate for chancellor," Geremek told PAP afer the meeting.

During a press conference here today, Oskar Lafontaine said:

The SPD is coming out for the recognition of the border without any reservations.

Conference "4 plus 2"

The SPD is supporting Poland's strivings for the participation in the conference and for the treaty recognition of the border with Poland.

Security Policy

The development of situation in Europe cannot mean that NATO troops will move to the Odra River.

Polish-German Brigade

The idea to establish a Polish-German brigade is based on a model of reconciliation between France and the FRG.

Geremek Welcomes German Unification

LD0504211790 Warsaw PAP in English
1238 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—Chairman of the OKP Citizen's Parliamentary Floor Group Bronislaw Geremek met with Saarland's minister-president and Social Democratic Party deputy chairman Oskar Lafontaine at the Sejm (Lower House) here today.

Welcoming the West German politician, Geremek said that "Solidarnosc" had long time ago spoken for the right of the Germans to unite and he added: "Today it gives us the right to state that we welcome with satisfaction the process of the German unification. We share the hopes of Germans, but we also want to think together so that Europe and the world is never again threatened by Germany," Geremek said.

Geremek on Polish-German Brigade Concept

LD0504184990 Warsaw PAP in English 1709 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—Asked how he assesses the idea to create a Polish-German brigade put forward by Minister-President of Saarland and Social Democratic Party Deputy Chairman Oskar Lafontaine, chairman of the Sejm (Lower House) foreign affairs committee Bronislaw Geremek said:

"We have not discussed the idea today. Plans to set up such a joint brigade can be discussed in the same categories in which the German-French rapprochement took place. The joint German-French brigade is a consequence of the removal of causes of deep-rooted historical conflicts between France and Germany."

"I hope this will also take place in relations between Poland and Germany. but we are only at the start of this road. As long as anybody who can influence the German policies still raises the question of the Polish-German border, this means we have not overcome the obstacles on this road yet," stressed Geremek.

Geremek Responds to Gremitskikh Criticism

LD0504175390 Warsaw PAP in English 1637 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—"The commentary by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman is based on false information and I hope that the ministry will obtain true information," Bronislaw Geremek, leader of the Citizen's parliamentary Floor Group (OKP) told PAP.

Geremek was referring to a statement by Soviet Foriegn Ministry spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh carried by the press on Thursday to the effect that the communique from the visit of an OKP delegation in Vilnius is an "interference" in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union.

Speaking on the same issue, OKP press spokesman Jacek Zakowski expressed surprise at the groundless interpretation of the communique.

He recalled that the visit by the delegation of deputies and senators from the Citizens' parliamentary Caucus headed by Bronislaw Geremek paid the visit at the invitation from the legally and democratically elected supreme authorities of Lithuania and was a continuation of the dialogue between OKP and Lithuanian "Sajudis" which began last year.

Skubiszewski Talks With Finland's Paasio

LD0504170190 Warsaw PAP in English 1403 GMT 5 Apr 90

[By PAP reporter Tomasz Walat]

[Text] Helsinki, April 5—Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski started a two-day visit to Finland today at the invitation from his Finnish counterpart Pertti Paasio.

At the start, both ministers signed an agreement on the protection of investments in Poland, the second guarantee agreement of that kind after the one already signed with Sweden. That will increase the readiness of Finnish economy to invest in Poland.

Also, official talks of both ministries were held today. As there are in principle no major problems in relations between both countries, the talks covered chiefly European topics, particularly the process of the unification of Germany, events in the Baltic republics. And the CSCE whose next meeting will be held here in 1992.

Speaks on European Developments

LD0504184290 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1500 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Poland is not yet ready to recognize Lithuania's independence, but it is closely following the development of the situation. This was stated by Polish Foreign Minister Krysztof Skubiszewski in Helsinki today. He is at present in Finland on a four-day visit. Juhani Lehtola has been following the visit of the Polish foreign minister.

[Lehtola] The Polish visitor is a 63 year-old professor of international law, who was appointed to the post of foreign minister last September when the government, led by the Solidarity movement, was formed. Although he has been involved in Solidarity since the beginning of its activity, he mainly regards himself as an independent politician.

The first talks of the visit were held today. Skubiszewski had talks with both Foreign Minister Paasio and President Koivisto. In the morning the foreign ministers signed an investment protection agreement between the countries, in other words, a kind of guarantee agreement concerning enterprises; similar agreements have also been concluded with the Soviet Union and Hungary.

At his press conference, which ended a moment ago, the foreign minister gave an account of his discussions and his views, which dealt with, apart from international issues, Europe, East Europe, and the Baltic countries. Skubiszewski considered the relations between our countries good. In Polish-Finnish relations there are, of course, common issues of interest to both countries, which must be developed further, such as environmental problems and the preparation for the next CSCE. Both Poland and Finland regard the preparations for the forthcoming CSCE summit as urgent. First, it will be necessary for experts to prepare a foreign ministers' meeting. Systematic preparation work is needed, since the next summit should build up a new security system in Europe, Skubiszewski noted. In environmental matters Finland and Poland are interested in cooperation, and progress has been made in the discussions.

Regarding the Baltic, Poland is closely following the development of the situation. The foreign minister hoped for moderation in the negotiations with the Soviet Union. Poland is not yet ready to recognise Lithuania's independence before the end of the negotiations; in Poland there has been, for instance within the solidarity movement, pressure for recognising Lithuania's independence.

According to the foreign minister, the Polish Government has clearly expressed its stand of support for the self-determination of nations, and every nation must also have the right to form its own state. All changes must be implemented in such a way as not to undermine the balance. An independent state can be recognized only when it is master in its own house, said Polish foreign Minister Skubiszewski, whose visit to Finland will end on Saturday.

Stresses 'Common Interests'

LD0604025190 Warsaw PAP in English
1838 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Helsinki, April 5—I am pleased very much with the talks that we had and I am glad that the Polish Minister, who won prestige in Europe in this short period of holding his office, paid a visit to Finland, Pertti Paasio said.

Also, Minister Skubiszewski stressed the significance of the present visit to Finland. "We have very many common interests and important common interests. Poland and Finland are neighbours of the USSR. Both states are very much interested in the fate of Baltic republics, particularly Lithuania. Already this creates some plane for agreement. We are united by common economic interests and many a thing remains to be done on this plane," he said.

In this context, Skubiszewski took up the question of a ferry line between Helsinki and Gdansk.

"We want also to return to the visa-free traffic with Finland (and also with Sweden) suspended by us during martial law. The question is now being agreed upon on the Scandinavian plane," Skubiszewski added.

Minister Skubiszewski elaborated on his official talks at a press conference at the Finnish Foreign Ministry's Press Centre.

He took up the question of an European summit of the CSCE states in the autumn of 1990.

Poland and Finland voiced support for this idea, unanimously stressing that the summit had to be preceded by a series of preparatory meetings on various levels and in various areas so that it could reach its goal. He recalled his initiative to set up a council for European cooperation.

Foreign Minister Skubiszewski was hosted also today to luncheon by Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. At a press conference, Skubiszewski said that both sides had discussed many questions covering both bilateral and international relations. He also voiced satisfaction over the reception.

The day wound up with a dinner given by Minister Pertti Paasio during which both ministers delivered speeches.

On Friday Skubiszewski will meet Finnish Premier Harri Holkeri and Speaker of the Finnish parliament Kalevi Sorsa, deliver a lecture on Polish foreign policy at the Helsinki University and will meet Poles living in Finland.

Canada's Don Mazankowski Visits Gdansk

LD0604034190 Warsaw PAP in English
2054 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Gdansk, April 5—Deputy Prime Minister, Canadian Minister of Agriculture Don Mazankowski, now on an official visit to Poland with a group of Canadian businessmen, arrived in Gdansk today.

The Canadian guests met with chairman of Solidarnosc Lech Walesa. Talks focused on major economic problems and on Polish-Canadian cooperation in this field.

Walesa stressed that Poland, undergoing swift reforms, does not have her own appropriate models, this can be gained in effect of developed international cooperation.

Don Mazankowski confirmed Canadian support for Polish Government's efforts aimed to introduce market economy. He stressed that there must appear stable legal principles regulating the presence of Western capital in Poland.

After the meeting Walesa told journalists: I have encouraged to do business with Poland. Canada represents an enormous potential and there are possibilities in Poland to carry on business contacts which can be established immediately.

Mazankowski said that our talk was a continuation of the discussion which we have started during Walesa's November visit to Canada. From then on, a number of initiatives were worked out, especially those embracing aid for Poland's agriculture. I briefed (Walesa) on agreements which are being signed with your government during our present visit to Poland.

Next, Don Mazankowski, accompanied by Lech Walesa, laid a wreath at the monument to fallen yard workers. The Canadian guest also visited the Gdansk shipyard.

In the afternoon, the Canadian delegation toured the Gdansk old town and the Westerplatte where it laid a wreath at the monument to the defenders of the Polish sea coast and on the grave of Major Henryk Sucharski.

Katyn Families Group Protests at Soviet Embassy

LD0504183590 Warsaw PAP in English
1758 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—Members of the National Federation of Katyn Families staged a demonstration in front of the Soviet Embassy here today demanding that the full truth about Kozielsk, Ostaszkow and Starobielsk be revealed and making it a pre-condition for reconciliation.

A several-strong delegation representing members of the Katyn family [as received] conveyed to the embassy officials a letter to president of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev which reads in part:

"Three generations of families of those murdered and entire Polish society, while watching your consistent actions aimed at the elimination of heavy consequences of the inglorious past in the latest history of the Soviet State and nations of the USSR, are convinced that also this grim chapter in Polish-Soviet relations which the crime committed on Polish officers and functionaries of Polish State administration in 1940 was, will be cleared up in line with obvious expectations of Poles and to the improvement of mutual human and state relations."

"We have talked to a councellor of the embassy Vladimir Voronkov who said that the current situation and the climate in the USSR are favourable for revealing the whole truth about Katyn soon," Bozena Lojek, a representative of the Katyn family told PAP.

Katyn Nazi Crime Commission Adopts Documents

LD0604035590 Warsaw PAP in English
2020 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—The main commission for the investigation of Nazi crimes—Institute of National Remembrance—adopted two documents on Nazi crimes in the wartime Auschwitz extermination camp and on the Stalinist crimes in Katyn.

"This spring marks the 50th anniversary of the opening by German authorities of the extermination camp in Auschwitz. Initialy planned for Poles, quickly became a place of torment of other nations, especially the site of mass murder of Jews. It is a symbol of the Nazi system of camps," reads the first document.

The second statement reads in part: "We are marking the 50th anniversary of crime committed by the NKVD [People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs] against Polish officers. But still unknown are places of mass graves of Polish officers imprisoned in the two remaining camps in Starobielsk and Ostaszkow. There is also lack of an official statement on the part of Soviet authorities on the perpetrators of crimes committed against Polish officers, although the Soviet security service know about witnesses of the then criminal activities and have archive documents at their disposal.

"In this situation, as well as after Soviet publications pointing to NKVD as the perpetrator of the murder, the commission's scientific council call on the Soviet prosecutor general to furnish the Polish side with explanations concerning this issue. We also speak in favour of making accessible mutual documents dealing with Stalinist crimes in Poland and against Polish nation."

The commission, which adopted the two documents in connection with anniversaries linked with the martyrdom of Polish nation observed this month, is also to carry out research on Stalinist crimes committed against the Polish nation during and after World War Two.

Jaruzelski To Visit Katyn Massacre Site

AU0604112290 Paris AFP in English
1021 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Warsaw, April 6 (AFP)—President Wojciech Jaruzelski will visit the Katyn forest, where 15,000 Polish officers were murdered in World War II, when he goes to the Soviet Union next week, sources at the presidency said Friday.

President Jaruzelski's four-day visit, starting Wednesday, comes on the 50th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, which Soviet sources are beginning to admit was carried out on the orders of Stalin.

General Jaruzelski is due to hold what his spokesman, Slawomir Witek, called "very important" talks with President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow touching on questions dating from the World War II occupation of Poland by Nazi Germany. [passage omitted]

Jaruzelski Schedule 'Too Full' for Washington Trip

AU0604111490 Paris AFP in English
1033 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 6 (AFP)—Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski has called off a trip he was to make to Washington because his schedule is too full, presidential spokesman Slawomir Witek said here Friday.

General Jaruzelski, who was invited to Washington by a group of newspaper editors, had planned to meet President George Bush while in the United States.

The Polish president is due to take part in talks also involving the leaders of Hungary and Czechoslovakia in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, on April 9. His visit to

Washington would also have come too close on the heels of a visit last month by Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the spokesman said.

Doctors Prevented From Crossing Lithuanian Border

LD0504122590 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0500 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Maria Wiernikowska report from Vilnius]

[Excerpts] Does the Army want to compromise the president? Posing this question, Vytautas Landsbergis publicly opened a debate which is not new, but there are some new details. [passage omitted] Doctors from international organizations who tried to get in [to Lithuania] from Poland, were stopped at several border points. This testifies to the lack of success of certain maneuvers by the Foreign Affairs Ministry here.

Lithuanian Border Closure Called 'Temporary'

LD0604123290 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] The Polish ambassador in Moscow has been informed that the decision concerning the closure of the only border crossing between Poland and Lithuania is of a temporary nature. It affects all those crossing the border, and not just Poles. The Foreign Ministry will continue talks aimed at reducing this temporary period of the closure of the border to a minimum.

Daily Advocates Defense Industry Modernization

AU0304083190 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 29 Mar 90 p 1

[Krzysztof Szczesniak article: "Tanks for Money"]

[Text] On the whole, Polish arms had quite a good reputation on world markets. There was a time when T-54 and T-55 tanks were good export products, like our Mi-2 helicopters, our radar stations, or ISKRA training jets.

The situation is somewhat different today. Our T-72 tanks and rifles are still competitive. We can also expect buyers for our "Malutka" guided anti-tank missiles, radar stations, and landing craft. However, the goods that we can offer do not include any fighter aircraft or any surface-to-air or surface-to-surface homing-guidance missiles. Those would attract the greatest number of buyers carrying suitcases full of foreign currency.

For over 30 years, all Polish arms exports were conducted through the Central Engineering Board (CENZIN for short), a specialist in the Foreign Trade Ministry, but journalists and public opinion had no access to any information on the subject. What we sold and how much we sold it for could only be established by roundabout means—from the foreign press and from Western information, which did not always tally.

For example, SIPRI, the famous Swedish Institute for Peace Research, reckons that in the years 1983-87 Poland occupied a position outside the top 15 arms-exporting countries. The London Institute for Strategic Studies accorded our country a similar place. On the other hand, ACDA, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency gave Poland a much higher rating, although the reason for this is not known. On the list produced by the agency, Poland ranked seventh among the largest arms suppliers in the years 1983-87.

However, there is considerable agreement about who leads the field in this area. The first place is occupied by the USSR, followed by the United States, France, and Great Britain, and then, further down the list, come the FRG, Italy, and China. That is the unquestioned group of leading world arms exporters.

As Dr. Pawel Wieczorek of the Polish International Affairs Institute writes in a book that is being prepared for publication, that arms exports and the provision of military services is one of the most profitable areas in the external trade field. By exporting armored vehicles during the period 1986-89, it was possible to obtain one dollar for 40 cents. Just two years ago, Poland was able to obtain $33 for one kilogram of tank, $36 for one kilogram of gun, and $228 for one kilogram of missile. For comparison's sake, the export of one kilogram of "Polonez" automobile yields $1.75. During the years 1986-89 armor exports to third world countries brought in a total of $624 million.

Unfortunately, the revenue obtained from arms exports is clearly falling from year to year. In 1986 arms exports brought in $234 million, but only about $73 million last year. There is a simple explanation for this state of affairs. In many cases, Polish military equipment is relatively out of date and so it is not that competitive in relation to what is offered by great military powers and highly industrialized countries. Combined with the general trend toward disarmament, prospects do not appear to be good for the projected financial gains that our country could obtain.

Nevertheless, trade in arms continues to be lucrative, even if it does not bring in hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Recently, interdepartmental decisions were agreed on with a view to dismantling the monopoly in this field. Producers themselves will be able to seek the right to sell weapons.

Apart from wanting to exploit existing manufacturing capacity to a greater extent, it is also a question of conducting research work that would make it possible to modernize Polish military equipment. Research of this kind is conducted all over the world, and it leads to many inventions and new technologies that acquire a civilian application in due course. It is a path that Poland should follow.

Apart from that, as a country that is acquiring sovereignty, we should see to it that the weapons that we possess are in no way inferior on the battlefield to other, modern weaponry. Let us hope that we will never have to use it, but we should have it.

Report Gives Details on Interior Ministry

AU0304134290 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 29 Mar 90 pp 4,5

[Jerzy Jachowicz article: "A Short Report on the MSW"]

[Text] The Citizens Militia [MO], the Security Service [SB], the Office for the Protection of the Government [BOR], the Frontier Guard [WOP], the Vistula Military Unit [NJW], and the Fire Brigade Service, are all under the control of the Internal Affairs Ministry [MSW]. The ministry also has its own health and social affairs department, holiday centers, and hotels.

Secret locations for surveillance, secret garages, secret intelligence and counter-intelligence services; the "gray numbers" of its paid collaborators; numerous secret places for establishing contact and for clandestine gatherings, as well as the highly secret, so-called, operations fund, all stand in the way of anyone who tries to obtain a fuller picture of the MSW.

The details that we have been able to obtain from the MSW are only a reflection of the ministry's current state. Nobody knows what the figures will look like in six months. The Sejm and Senate commissions keep introducing changes and amendments to the proposed draft legislation on the MSW. The MO would like to be fully independent of the MSW. The BOR would like to be part of a future autonomous MO and the Fire Brigade Service would like to pass under the control of the civil powers. However, for the time being things are as stated.

The MSW leadership has declined to provide the total number of buildings and the total number of square meters that the ministry occupies in Warsaw. One of the ministry's high ranking officials has stated the following: "We cannot give away the location of all our buildings, because many of them are secret and if we only give partial figures, we might be accused of trying to falsify the picture."

When General Kiszczak stated that the MSW had dismissed several hundred SB functionaries, I suggested that one of the buildings could be handed over to Warsaw's city council. Minister Kiszczak replied that the intelligence service has its specific requirements and each functionary ought to have his own office and safe. Up till now our people have been crammed on top of one another with the result that everyone knew about everything that was going on."

The MSW employs 7,850 people, excluding those who work in its health service. There are some 100 directors and deputy directors. The basic administrative units are the departments, offices, and boards.

Most of the directors and their deputies hold the rank of colonel and their basic remuneration in March was 1,683,000 zlotys [Z].

The MSW's central offices and the main headquarters of the MO have been allocated Z242 billion for their current year expenditure. The MSW has 1,333 vehicles at its disposal.

The Security Service

According to information issued by the ministry's press section, there are presently 389 SB functionaries working in the central offices of the ministry, plus their assistants, secretaries, typists, chauffeurs, and cleaners. The SB does not employ outside civilian personnel. All these functionaries are employed in three departments. Nothing has been said about personnel numbers and grades in the remaining departments.

In an interview with PAP, Jerzy Karpacz, head of the SB, stated that in June 1989 the SB employed 24,000 personnel throughout Poland.

Since then the SB has shrunk to 3,153 functionaries. What has happened to the other 21,000 people? It is known that some were pensioned off and some joined the militia. However, the ministry has not given any precise details on this "reshuffle of its forces."

I tried to obtain this information myself. From June 1989 to March 1990, the number of functionaries who figure on the ministry's pension and retirement records has increased 5,445. If we assume this number to be made up of SB functionaries only, which is highly improbable, then, comparing it to the figure of 21,000, that still leaves us with 15,000 people unaccounted for.

It is extremely likely that 21,000 SB personnel, or very similar numbers, have been transferred to the MO. In November 1989, General Kiszczak's press spokesman, Colonel Wojciech Garstka, was transferred to the MO precisely in this way. The Colonel commented: "My SB identity card was exchanged for an MO identity card, because the SB card was in a bad state."

The ministry's personnel department maintains that the SB has and always had the same pay scales as the MO. However, militia officials maintain that their SB counterparts earn a great deal more, because of the additional high bonus payments and prizes that the SB employee qualifies for. Some 1,062 vehicles are used on SB business throughout Poland. This means one vehicle for every three SB functionaries.

The Pesel [as published, meaning unknown], a special unit with the status of a department, specializes in the gathering of people's personal details and the storage of these in computer data banks.

The basic numbers of staff employed in this particular unit is 307 MO functionaries. Skilled operator work is carried out by 125 civilian staff and additionally by 503 civil defense volunteers, 48 communication technicians, and .... 60 female prison staff.

The Citizens Militia

Some 500 people work in the central headquarters of the MO including the 109, so called, technician operator staff. The organizational structure of the MO's central headquarters is given as follows: The commander-in-chief, his office, the offices of his two deputies, and seven other bureaus, including five bureaus where there are no technician operator staff.

According to the information given by the press spokesman at the MO's central headquarters, there are 77,000 MO functionaries throughout Poland. If we add the 3,000 SB functionaries to this number, we have a total of some 80,000 people employed by the ministry. This figure does not correspond to the details obtained from the MSW's finance department at the end of March. Those details show that the ministry employs 115,675 people. According to the salary lists, we can obtain the following staff numbers according to length of service: 3,050 personnel—length of service above 35 years (thus taken on before 1955); 2,446 personnel—length of service 30 to 35 years; 20,421 personnel—length of service up to 30 years; 50,944 personnel—length of service 10 to 20 years; 24,570 personnel—length of service up to 10 years; and 14,245 personnel—length of service up to five years.

The voivodship offices for internal affairs are the lower organizational units of the MO. They are composed of the following divisions: the investigation and observation division, the criminal division, the preventative division, the road traffic division, and the forensic evidence division.

In the central headquarters of the MO in Warsaw there are additionally the enquiries, records, and identification divisions.

The various MO voivodship offices receive allocations of funds that reflect the voivodship's particular category, which is based on the total number of staff the voivodship office employs. These categories run from category one to category three. The eight largest voivodships are each classed as category one. These voivodship offices of the MO employ more than 5,000 staff. Those voivodship offices that have less than 1,000, fall into category three. Thus in the current year, Warsaw voivodship has received Z176.5 billion, Kielce voivodship (category two) Z64.5 billion, and Ciechanow (category three), only Z21 billion.

The salaries of higher functionaries are calculated according to three criteria, namely, grade, type of work, and category of voivodship. In March and taking just the grade element, a brigade general received Z460,000, a colonel received Z417,000, a captain received Z354,000, a lieutenant received Z328,000, a sergeant received Z244,000, and an ordinary militiaman received Z158,000.

In March, the take home pay of the Gdansk voivodship MO head with the rank of general and 35 years service, was Z1,788,000. The take home pay of the voivodship MO head in Walbrzych (category two), was Z1,680,000, and in Pila (category three) it was Z1,579,000. The head of division with the rank of colonel and 35 years service commanding a category one garrison, received Z1,187,000, and in a category three region, his counterpart received Z1,080,000.

A local neighborhood MO officer with the rank of staff sergeant will earn Z610,000 no matter where he is posted in Poland. A recently recruited militiaman gets Z464,000. The average salary in the MO works out at Z612,000.

The voivodship MO offices and the schools run by the MSW (scrambled figures for both were supplied to us) have 14,948 vehicles, including 417 prisoner vans, 4,246 vans of the "Nysa" type, 5,236 cars (of which 2,443 are unmarked), 210 buses, 4,848 other types of vehicles (heavy trucks, small buses, terrain vehicles, special vehicles, cranes, tanker trucks, and mobile workshop repair trucks). According to the information given by the ministry only 11 cars out of its whole fleet in Poland have private number plates.

After deducting the 1,062 vehicles used by the SB and the [illegible],631 vehicles used for general and administrative tasks and by the ministry's health service, the MO is left with a total of 10,291 vehicles, that is to say every MO vehicle has to "carry" seven militiamen, four more per vehicle than in the SB.

Education

The figures given for January 1990 are as follows:

—The Internal Affairs Academy [ASW] in Warsaw has 430 staff, 186 full-time students, and 790 correspondence students;
—The ASW in Szczytno has 670 staff, 1,340 full-time students, and 500 correspondence students;
—The ASW in Legionowo has 542 staff, 966 full-time students, and 523 correspondence students;
—The Cadet Officer Academy in Slupsk has 457 staff and 565 full-time students;
—The Cadet Officer Academy in Pila has 312 staff and 458 full-time students;
—The Center for the Development of Management Personnel in Lodz has 179 staff and 143 full-time students;
—The Center for Road Transport Studies in Piaseczno has 303 staff and 176 full-time students;
—The Dog Training Institute in Sulkowice (Radom voivodship) has 126 staff and 271 full-time students.

Office for the Protection of the Government

Asked about details, Colonel Wieslaw Godziszewski, head of the Office for the Protection of the Government [BOR], said: "We cannot reveal to the enemy what firepower we have at our disposal. I would like to stress that BOR never identified itself with the SB, although we carry SB identity cards."

However, finally we did obtain some information.

BOR employs about 300 functionaries. Most of them are recruited from among former soldiers of the 6th Pomeranian Airborne Division, that is, the Krakow Red Berets. They also include many graduates of the Physical Education Academy.

The office recruits people who have completed high school and is particularly eager to hire college graduates. Requirements are very high. Candidates undergo a variety of physical and psychological tests. The tests pertain to, among other things: reflexes, the ability to run fast, strength, dexterity, the ability to remember topography, concentration, and the ability to remember faces and persons.

In 1989 BOR established contact with 2,300 candidates. Following preliminary reviews, the number was reduced to 450, and then to 75, after further selection procedures were completed. Eight candidates were finally hired.

The training lasts three years. During the training period employees are required to perform gymnastics and weight-training, involving 15-17 tons of weights daily; to learn martial arts skills and how to throw knives and to disarm people; and acquire basic skills in the use of firearms.

On completion of training, functionaries either serve as bodyguards or in the anti-terrorist group, which provides protection to foreign statesmen during visits to Poland. All foreign visitors actually have bodyguards of their own, but they generally also request the services of some of our own bodyguards and that usually requires the services of at least six to ten functionaries. Bodyguards are provided to the Sejm and Senate marshals; members of the Government Presidium; Ministers of State Jozef Czyrek, Jozef Koziol, and Piotr Nowina-Konopka; the internal affairs minister; and "Solidarity" Chairman Lech Walesa. Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski waived his right to protection. The president is protected by a military unit of his own.

The functionaries assigned to act as bodyguards must be acceptable to the person being protected and performance of this service—where and when it should be provided and whether it should be provided 24 hours a day or for shorter periods of time—must be in accordance with the wishes of the person concerned.

BOR also possesses an approximately 40-man specialist group, which includes a team of several explosives specialists who inspect routes and buildings used by protected persons for the presence of explosive devices. There is also a team for checking radiation levels and a team of communications engineers.

BOR has two armored Volvo automobiles, two ZIL limousines, and two buses. It can also draw on a reserve motor pool, but we were told nothing else about it.

Frontier Guard

Our frontiers are guarded by 22,500 troops, of whom 15,000 are conscripts performing basic military service and more than 7,000 are professional soldiers. Their responsibilities include the manning of 49 frontier crossing points and 164 watchtowers.

It is planned that once WOP is transformed into the future Frontier Service it will employ about 19,000 functionaries and that it will be staffed exclusively by professional functionaries within a few years' time.

The Vistula Military Unit

The unit numbers about 9,000 troops, of whom 2,000 are professional soldiers and the remaining 7,000 odd are conscripts performing basic military service.

The Vistula Military Unit's tasks include: the detection of explosives and the measurement of radioactivity levels in state facilities and routes and buildings used by foreign delegations; the provision of protection to visiting foreign delegations; the protection of buildings such as the Presidential Office, the Office of the Council of Ministers, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and the Internal Affairs Ministry; postal transport escort duties; assistance in dealing with natural disasters; the use of aircraft for farming purposes; and the provision of protection on chartered flights for members of the government. The Vistula Military Unit has 34 helicopters.

The Vistula Military Unit and WOP have 3,615 automobiles.

The Fire Service

The total number of fire service functionaries amounts to about 45,000 as well as a further 2,000 civilian employees.

There are 135 people employed at Fire Service Main Headquarters, which has seven "Polonez" automobiles and two transit vehicles at its disposal.

The Fire Service has about 15,000 fire engines nationwide and a further 2,500 special vehicles equipped with hydraulic platforms and automatic ladders.

Hotels

Twenty-nine units have their own hotels for employees, with 3,648 places. Nine units run boarding schools, with 1,476 places.

Some of these hotels have commenced profit-earning activity. It has been arranged with "Orbis" [the Polish state travel agency] and the Warsaw municipal authorities that the newly-refurbished "Sloneczna" Hotel in Warsaw will be made available to tourists when it is not being used by the Ministry. On 6 March, the small ministerial hotel in Swidra, near Warsaw, received its first dollar- paying guests.

Vacation Centers

The Ministry has 52 vacation centers all over the country. There are about 15 centers on the coast, and a similar number in mountain resorts. In addition, there are convalescent homes in Sopot, Kudowa, Krynica, Ciechocinek, Kolobrzeg, and Cieplice. A further home is under construction in Naleczow.

No one in the Ministry was able to tell me how many employees and their families went on foreign vacations in 1989. But I was told how much employees paid for a three-week foreign trip—Z22,000, including transportation costs.

The Health Service

The Ministry has 15 hospitals, with a total of 3,649 beds, plus 52 polyclinics. There are three pulmonological hospitals (for the treatment of lung disorders) in Glucholazy, Otwock, and Kansk, and a hospital for treating nervous disorders in Barcinek. Specialized hospitals contain a total of 570 beds.

The Ministry's medical staff consists of 2,136 general practitioners, 302 dentists, 302 pharmacists, 3,155 nurses, 660 medical assistants, and 788 other health employees.

In 1989, about 40 percent of the patients in the Ministry's hospitals had no right to be there.

During work on the Ministry of Internal Affairs Bill, Sejm deputies postulated the abolition of the Ministry's health service. But General Kiszczak defended the service, presenting a document called "Conditions," which says: "Work under various kinds of atmospheric conditions and during unsocial hours upsets the biological rhythm and causes a rapid depletion of psychological and physical reserves, resulting in specific diseases(...) As a result of nervous and psychiatric disorders acquired during the course of service, every year 400 MSW employees are treated in public hospitals, and 600 in the Ministry's own hospital in Barcinek."

After this, General Kiszczak said: "After having asked militiamen and other SB employees and soldiers to pay for the Ministry's health service by taking hold of spades and helping to build hospitals and clinics during weekends instead of going fishing or mushroom picking, I would not be able to look them in the eyes if I were to tell them that the Ministry's health service is going to be abolished."

Termination of Service

When one's service is terminated, all that is left is a retirement or disability pension. Some 55,193 former Ministry employees are receiving retirement pension. The average retirement pension in March was about Z522,000 per month. Some 19,365 employees are receiving disability pensions following a loss of health. The average disability pension in March was Z487,000. Some 14,673 persons are receiving survivor pensions following the death of a Ministry employee. The average survivor pension in March was Z403,000.

All in all, 89,227 people are drawing various kinds of pensions. The average is Z471,000 per month.

Pensions do not constitute a financial burden on the MSW, for they are paid out of the state budget.

Conclusion

The Ministry has a total of 19,940 official vehicles, excluding fire engines.

If one adds to the 80,000 MO and SB employees the 31,000 soldiers in WOP and the Vistula Military Unit, the 45,000 fire service functionaries, and the 7,243 health service employees, then General Kiszczak has a total of 163,000 people under his command, the ranks of whom have recently been augmented by one civilian—Senator Krzysztof Kozlowski, vice minister of internal affairs.

Sejm Resumes Interior Ministry Debates 6 Apr

LD0604101490 Warsaw PAP in English 0847 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Text] Waraws, April 6—The Sejm resumed its debates here this morning with the second reading of draft laws on the Interior Ministry, State Protection Office and Police. Several deputies are to take part in discussion on the issue.

It is envisaged that the sitting will last late into the evening.

Walesa Attends Citizens Committee Meeting

AU0504084190 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 2 Apr 90 pp 1,3

[Bogumil Luft report: "More Precise Rules"]

[Text] "Increasing the membership of the committee to include activists from various political groups should dispel charges that the committee wants to turn itself into a party." The statement was made by Zdislaw Najder, Citizens Committee "Solidarity" chairman at a news conference that was held after the committee met on Saturday [31 March]. The meeting was attended by Lech Walesa and Tadeusz Mazowiecki .

The "Solidarity" chairman invited twenty new people to join the committee and this practice is to be continued. In effect, the committee is to include more people from outside Warsaw, representatives of the clergy, whose representation is to be discussed with church authorities, and political activists drawn from various tendencies. Najder said: "The formula will only be extended as far as the boundaries of common sense permit. It is difficult, for example, to imagine it encompassing activists of 'Solidarity-80'". Although invitations were extended, Saturday's meeting was not attended by two Polish Peasant Party people, who want to discuss their decision with the party's governing bodies, and activists from the Christian National Union, who have questioned the principle of inviting specific persons rather than representatives of groupings.

"Increasing membership is linked to the new tasks that the committee has to address," said Kazimierz Woycicki, one of the two Citizens Committee assistant secretaries (the other is Jacek Moskwa) who are to assist Secretary Henryk Wujec, Deputy Chairmen Jacek Kurczewski and Jan Olszewski, as well as Zdislaw Najder himself, who told journalists that Walesa had expressed the wish that the committee conduct its work independently of him.

Woycicki said that the committee's new tasks were to involve starting a political debate between people representing various orientations and thus create a kind of workshop for political ideas.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki spoke in a similar vein during the first part of the meeting and said that he was very concerned that "we should not turn our embryonic Polish democracy into a Polish hell of squabbles, scheming, and battles." The premier asked why political pluralism in Poland was developing so slowly, although it is not subject to any external constraints, and he said that he thought that the future will be forged out of a combination of tendencies to create political parties and the Citizens Committee formula, which has not been exhausted yet. He expressed the "highest respect" for society, which is coping with the great changes that are taking place in a manner that was difficult to predict. He talked about the need to concentrate efforts on fostering civic activity, "the minor and major" privatization of the economy, and changes in the Internal Affairs Ministry and the National Defense Ministry, where he will shortly appoint civilians. However, he stressed that "we should not pursue the kind of policy that was pursued with respect to us; one that expelled us to the fringes of Polish life."

This prompted strong objections from Walesa, who accused the government of sentimentalism that was out of place in a situation in which people see "the Security Service and others setting themselves up." "This is a time for decrees, and we do not issue them," thundered the "Solidarity" chairman, referring to, among other things, the struggle against nomenklatura companies.

This theme was repeatedly raised during the debate, although in a calmer, but no less resolute manner. Stefan Kurakowski called for a moral settling of accounts with those who previously held power and said that he feared that the appointment of civilians to the National Defense Ministry and the Internal Affairs Ministry will lend credibility to institutions that do not merit it. Mieczyslaw Gil lambasted television for continuing to use its old style of language. Gabriel Janowski complained that the nomenklatura had retained its hold on most cooperatives, because the law on cooperatives was badly framed and elections for cooperative governing boards were held too soon. Marek Edelman warned that an economic mafia, in which the security apparatus and the nomenklatura were involved, was coming into being. Andrzej Slowik protested about members of the government participating in the work of a committee that is meant to be a public body.

Lech Walesa also came in for criticism. It concerned proposed adjustments to the committee that were outlined at the beginning of the meeting and were confirmed by the appointment of new members. Zbigniew Bujak said that "he did not feel at home" seeing new faces among the leaders and members of the committee, but not seeing some of the old ones (it was later explained that Prof. Geremek was abroad). Bujak would prefer to remain within a group that was united by an idea, a group that would provide support to the Citizens Parliamentary Club, that would be the leading force following the local elections, and would compete against other groups in the parliamentary elections. Andrzej Wajda expressed similar sentiments and called on Walesa to transform the Citizens Committee into a political party, and Marek Edelman said that "this anti-totalitarian group must take over local government in the way that it took over government."

Zdislaw Najder outlined a different philosophy, saying that we have to avoid a situation in which the citizens committees would become a "roller that would flatten our political life." Concerning the local elections, this means that Lech Walesa's Citizens Committee will not campaign for any specific lists, but will provide practical assistance to the committees in the regions and encourage the public to take part in the elections. An appropriate appeal regarding this subject was passed at the meeting. In addition, the committee will not seek to influence the selection of candidates by local committees. Zdislaw Najder's comment was: "Democracy can only be learned from below, not by assuming responsibility from above."

The greatest consensus achieved during the debate concerned the need to draw up rules for the committee and revive the commissions for dealing with work on specific groups of social, economic, and political issues. Their work effectively ceased following the "roundtable." Following the meeting Najder said: "There have to be more precise rules, organizational forms, and a more precise distribution of powers." Despite all the reservations that were expressed during the discussion, the text of a declaration that accorded with the tone of the majority of statements was approved. The declaration expressed "confidence in and support for the government's actions," approved the government's achievements to date, and called for "an acceleration of the process of eradicating the totalitarian system." Support was expressed for the government's policy of opening up Poland with regard to its neighbors and the rest of the world, and recognition made of the results obtained thus far in transforming the Polish economy into a market economy. However, it was also noted that the economic program should be supplemented by effective interventionist action aimed at providing assistance to private farmers in their efforts to adjust to the new system. The dignified way in which society is tolerating the shortcomings connected with the economic changes was stressed, and local committees were urged to encourage civic activity.

Those attending the meeting also adopted a declaration recognizing Lithuania's inalienable right to independence, stating that the country's government has full legal sovereignty in that state, and expressing the hope that this fact will be recognized by the USSR and all states belonging to the international community.

Military Daily Explains Choice of New Name

AU0404140090 Warsaw ZOLNIERZ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ in Polish 2 Apr 90 p 1

[Editor in chief Zdzislaw Janos editorial: "A New Title"]

[Text] As you have noticed, as of today the Polish Army daily bears a new name—ZOLNIERZ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ [SOLDIER OF THE REPUBLIC]. For our regular readers, this must come as no surprise, for when we changed our format and graphics on 12 February (the dramatic financial difficulties hit us too), we asked our readers to send in comments and suggestions about a modern profile for the paper, and also about a new name.

It is my pleasure to say that the response was considerable. Many readers, employees, and correspondents submitted their suggestions, comments, and opinions, some of which we printed.

ZOLNIERZ RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ turned out to be the most appropriate suggestion, and not just in our opinion, though we have to admit we also liked several others, such as "Obronca Rzeczyspospolitej" ["Defender of the Republic"), "Wojsko Rzeczypospolitej" ["Army of the Republic"], and "Polska Zbrojna" ["Armed Poland"], the name of a military daily that appeared before 1939. I should also say that many respondents thought there was no need to change ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI's name, but merely improve its coverage; bring it closer to the problems and needs of readers; and better defend the dignity, honor, and interests of the military community.

However, the opinion of the majority won. Those who suggested the new name argued that it best reflects the essence of the Polish Army's tasks in its service to the Polish Republic, as well as the nature of the democratic and humanitarian changes to our Army, its system of training, and service conditions.

At the same time, I would like to stress that by changing the name, we are not abandoning the traditions of a paper that has faithfully, though with varying degrees of effectiveness, accompanied soldiers in their arduous service for the fatherland for almost 47 years.

Sejm Debates Privatization, Ownership

LD0504114590 Warsaw PAP in English 1000 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—Deputy Jan Lopuszanski (Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group) voiced his dissatisfaction at the work of the government commission for political parties' property at the Sejm sitting started here this morning. Lopuszanski said that the commissions activity did not meet the Sejm expectations and announced immediate repetition of the legislative initiative on taking over the property of the former Polish United Workers Party [PUWP] by the state treasury.

The debates proper were started from the first reading of draft laws on privatization of state enterprises and on setting up an ownership transformations agency.

Presenting the drafts on behalf of the government, vice Premier Leszek Balcerowicz recalled that four months ago the Sejm took decisions of the fundamental significance for the Polish economy and now breakthrough changes in the economic system must be made.

Solidarity, Government Representatives Hold Talks

LD0604033590 Warsaw PAP in English 2052 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Warsaw, April 5—The board of the Mazowszi chapter of the Independent Self-governing Trade Union NSZZ Solidarnosc issued the following communique today:

The NSZZ Solidarnosc and representatives of the government held another meeting on April 4. The debates were chaired by Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Jacek Kuron and member of the Presidium of the National Executive Commission of the NSZZ Solidarnosc Michal Boni.

During the meeting sides reviewed issues dealing first and foremost with employment. The union presented a number of postulates concerning the combating of unemployment and its effects.

The sides also discussed the problems of the old age pensions policy in light of unemployment.

ADEVARUL on Attempts To Destabilize Country

AU0104181790 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 27 Mar 90 p 1

[ADEVARUL Director Darie Novaceanu article: "Naive People and the Country"]

[Text] At this point, only naive people perhaps believe that what happened in Tirgu Mures and other localities in Transylvania was not a new show of force, which various political groups and quite a few circles abroad tried to stage in our country at a time of great, acknowledged, and recognized difficulties. These circles are trying by all means to destabilize everything, to make us go to the dogs, to reduce us to begging, so that we hold out our hand, in who knows what direction, to be told what to do with our future and how to sell it most advantageously to some generous people who, only in semblance, are biding their time until after the May elections, when from one provisional government we will pass to another less provisional one.

Our country has continued to bleed since the days of 16-22 December—the only days of supreme and pure sacrifice. Wounds are opening in all towns and villages. Rapid social decline and proclamations proliferate while hypocrisy prospers, pouring poison into the souls of people with no means to defend themselves. Confused—despite the central bodies' efforts which make honest people's hearts grow—the forces that are responsible for maintaining order are unable to master the avalanche of spontaneous meetings and gatherings, which degenerate rapidly into acts of violence. At the end, the promoters just stand there asking the police where the pile of stones is, which is mentioned here and there, and just point their finger at the government, firmly demanding that it identify and punish the guilty ones who, by that time, are hundreds of kilometers away.

The government has been accused of not taking measures in time. It is even blamed for the fact that it has not foreseen such situations so as to be able to stop them before being put into motion, as if the government had nothing else to do but deal out the cards to determine what brave man is coming along the highway, and whether he is Blue Beard of the King of Spades; as if it were they, and not the government, steering the economy (in fact they do, toward a precipice). The same people, who point with their finger, will almost surely protest against the possible decrease in pay this month since this pay will be calculated according to work performed and tangible results achieved.

We do not want to absolve the government of this unjustified bashfulness toward these repeated shows of force. Now it has reason and the authority to intervene in time against certain attempts of the same kind, because there are signs that they may multiply and intensify. All those who are involved in the election campaign have begun—watch in hand—the countdown of the days that will take them to the polling stations.

However, let us return to the naive people and make them ask themselves why did our parties—at least those which claim that they can cover our country's territory with the palms of their members—not intervene directly in quenching the sources of hatred and violence in Transylvania? They should ask themselves why some of the leaders of those parties preferred to organize other meetings—as the ones yesterday in Bucharest's Unity Square, in Iasi, and other localities throughout the country—instead of taking a train or getting on a bicycle to go to Tirgu Mures and lend a sincere helping hand to the government commission that worked there. If Romanian citizens from Transylvania are among these naive people, they should ask themselves the same thing so as to realize how easy it was to manipulate them, thus worrying a whole country, and—by no means paradoxical—influencing even the election returns in our neighboring country in one way or another.

Even if it is not agreeable, it is high time for us to understand that the positive development of our country and of our personal life depends only on ourselves and on the trust we have to regain among ourselves and within ourselves. It is high time for us to realize that for 2000 years now no angels have come down from the heavens.

Police Statement Details Transylvanian Incidents

AU0404213490 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 4 Apr 90 pp 1, 3

[Ion Marcovici and Dan Vardie report on Interior Ministry news conference in Bucharest on 28 March]

[Text] During a news conference organized yesterday, 28 March 1990, by the Interior Ministry—with the participation of Deputy Minister Colonel General Jean Moldoveanu and Deputy Minister Major General Diamantescu—details were provided to journalists in connection with the Romanian-Hungarian conflict in Tirgu Mures, on 19, 20, and 21 March.

General Diamantescu said that on 19 March 1990, at 0930 some 2,500-3,000 Romanians gathered in the city's central square. It was a peaceful demonstration. They demanded the resignation of Mr. Professor Andras Tokes, deputy general inspector at the Education Ministry; Elod Kincses, vice president of the local Provisional National Unity Council [PNUC], and Karoly Kiraly, PNUC vice president. After Mr. Kincses announced his resignation at 1330, the group of demonstrators began to disperse. However, some 500 people began marching toward the headquarters of the Tirgu Mures radio station. (What were they looking for there?—our note) Along this route, there was the building that housed the headquarters of various political parties, including the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [HDUR]. At that time, some 140-200 Hungarians were gathered in the street to listen to a speech by the well-known writer Andras Suto. When the two groups made contact, the extremists in both camps began exchanging invectives and throwing stones at each other.

Sixty-seven Hungarian citizens took refuge in that building. A mysterious telephone call—made by a telephone operator called Maria or Ileana—asking for help for the Tirgu Mures Romanians reached the communes of Hodac, Ibanesti, and Deda. This led to an escalation of the conflict in front of the headquarters of the various parties. Concerned about the fate of their relatives, families, friends, and children in Tirgu Mures, the inhabitants of the three villages arrived in the city with fast transportation vehicles. (Who made these vehicles available to them so fast and simultaneously in the 3 villages? The answer will be given after a police investigation that will take some time—our note) The police cordon was broken, the entrance door was forced open, and the Romanians devastated the headquarters of the political parties. At 2030 the police asked for Army support. Both military forces managed to bring out the 60-90 Hungarians that found refuge in the building and to ensure their protection all the way to a military truck. However, the crowd surrounded the vehicle, tore off the protection tarpaulin, and attacked the group of Hungarians. During that terrible incident, writer Andras Suto, who was trying to calm the crowd, was seriously injured. At night, the city was calm. On 20 March, in the morning, the Hungarian villagers organized a 1-hour strike in their enterprises. After 0900, the first groups of people left for the city's center. There, some 12,000 Hungarians and 5,000 Romanians gathered in the square between 0900 and 1800. They were kept apart by a police cordon. After 1800, a placard with the sign "Now or Never" written in Hungarian was hoisted by the Hungarian "camp." The attack began at that time. (Our paper is in possession of the two pictures of a citizen of Romanian extraction, Mihaila Cofariu, being cruelly beaten. Alongside our photo-reporter was an Irish cameraman, who filmed the entire conflict—our note) Around 2230 the Romanians left the square and extremist Hungarian elements devastated the Grand Hotel and ravaged the headquarters of the "Vatra Romaneasca" society. Early estimates put the material damage to about 1.8 million lei. More realistic estimates made in the following days put that figure to around 630,000 lei, of which stolen beverages and foodstuffs alone amounted to 230,000 lei. Around 0200 the police and Army gained control of the situation. The "Hungarian camp" also went home. There were 269 people injured, including 185 Romanians and an English journalist. There were 3 deaths including one person in Ernei commune hit by a car whose way had been blocked. At this time, the general said, there are no further conflicts in Mures County. The city is patrolled by order teams, which also include Romanian and Hungarian civilians. In the last two days, work has resumed. There have been no further cases of people being chased away from factories. On 28 March, there were still 52 wounded people in hospital (3 Romanians and 22 Hungarians) [numbers as published], six in serious condition. At the time of the disturbances, order was ensured in the city by 190 policemen....

Romanian, Hungarian, English, French, Yugoslav, and Russian journalists asked various questions during the news conference. The gist of the answers given to these questions makes up the substance of this article. It is also worth mentioning Colonel General Jean Moldoveanu's statement to the effect that the police cannot and should not be called upon to solve inter-ethnic conflicts. Our political system must do that, by observing all democratic principles.

Iliescu, Roman Meet Vatra Romaneasca Members

AU0404135490 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] This morning, Mr. Ion Iliescu, president of the Provisional National Unity Council president, and Prime Minister Mr. Petre Roman met with representatives of the Tirgu Mures, Harghita, Cluj, and Bucharest branches of the Vatra Romaneasca national union.

During the meeting, talks were held on specific aspects of the Transylvanian issue, in the context of the undesirable events that took place in Tirgu Mures.

According to the statement made by Mr. Silviu Petre Olariu, honorary Vatra Romaneasca president, this organization—being apolitical—declares that is not involved in this matter and is categorically in favor of dialogue among all groups of the Transylvanian population. Vatra Romaneasca reaches out its hand to all those who understand that dialogue is the only way to solve the problems of the Transylvanian population.

Discuss Union's Aims, Activity

AU0404192090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1831 GMT 4 Apr 90

["Transylvania: "Vatra Romaneasca" Introduces Itself"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 4/4/1990—Wednesday, 4 April, Ion Iliescu, PNUC [Provisional National Unity Council] president, Prime Minister Petre Roman and Adrian Motiu, minister secretary of state, had a second meeting with representatives of the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union of Mures, Harghita, Cluj counties and the City of Bucharest.

During the meeting, the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union delegates spoke at length about the union's aims and activity, and about the present situation in the counties of Mures, Harghita and Covasna after 14 days of dialogue in Tirgu Mures.

The discussions evinced the fact that the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union is a social, cultural and civic organization with branches around the country which campaigns for the assertion of the Romanian spirit. It is a political organization which defends with its specific means the Romanians' national dignity and implicitly recognizes the democratic rights of all ethnic minorities, rights that the new constitution will sanction when the new parliament adopts it.

President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman assessed as positive the steps made in the Tirgu Mures dialogue. They also considered that the talks showed that investigations should continue to fully elucidate what had happened and tell the public opinion what the conclusions were.

It was also considered that the "Vatra Romaneasca" Union was helpful and assisted all the factors that have a role in the proper settlement of the state of conflict in certain parts of Transylvania for the constructive resolution of all problems.

Government Committee Urges Focus on Ethnic Issues

LD0404220290 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] In Tirgu Mures, the appointed government committee has taken a stand in agreement with the representatives of the Democratic Alliance of Magyars of Romania and Vatra Romanesca that the authorities will have to pay special attention to nationality questions in the future.

The joint statement also emphasizes that public opinion must be informed about developments. Incidentally, there is peace in Tirgu Mures, but the roads leading into the town are still strictly controlled by the military forces.

Romanian, Hungarian Organizations Appeal to Press

AU0504212690 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1700 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Appeal to press by representatives of Vatra Romaneasca Union and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, in connection with Tirgu Mures events; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] We now present the appeal of the Vatra Romaneasca Union [VRU] and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [HDUR], in the Romanian and Hungarian languages, addressed to the mass information media:

[First unidentified speaker, in Romanian] With no intention of hampering press freedom in any way, the VRU and HDUR call on Romania's press organs to be so kind as to consult with the special Tirgu Mures commission, before releasing any text, picture, or tape in connection with the events that took place in Tirgu Mures. We have no intention whatsoever of introducing any kind of censorship; however, we make this appeal out of the sincere desire to ensure that the public is fully informed.

We also appeal to the public to prolong the state of calm that has been established in Tirgu Mures. We call on all mass media and all authorized persons and institutions capable of doing this, to be so kind as to employ all available means to extend this state of quiet, that we need so much.

[Second unidentified speaker, in Romanian] I speak on behalf of the Mures County HDUR branch. I fully agree with what Mr. Radu Ceontea [VRU president] has had to say. We join in this common appeal and we hope that the Tirgu Mures situation will stay calm and will be conducive to a peaceful coexistence between the two ethnic communities.

[Third unidentified speaker, in Hungarian] On behalf of the HDUR Mures County branch and of the the VRU, we would like to ask all the mass media, that is the radio, television, and press, that, before releasing anything about the events that occurred in Marosvasarhely [Tirgu Mures] to consult the commission that has been appointed by the parliamentary commission to verify press organs. I would like to remark that this appeal does not mean censorship, but, for the benefit of a common cause, we would like all events to be presented in a realistic way and not unilaterally in the columns of the mass media, on the television screen, or on the radio.

Likewise, we would like to draw everybody's attention to the fact that, until the commission concludes its proceedings, they should refrain from all kind of demonstrations or any kind of manifestations that might disturb the peace of the two ethnic groups. Thank you.

Daily Encourages Privatization Process

AU0404131590 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 28 Mar 90 p 3

[Radu Negrea article: "Let Us Not Sacrifice the Buds of the Market Economy!"]

[Excerpts] The first private enterprises have not even begun their activity and already a campaign has started against their getting rich at the expense of state incomes. The recent appeal for strict and incorruptible fiscal rules stems from the legitimate concern of each honest man not to promote the proliferation of fraud and profiteering. However, the proposal—coming from official sources—to repay those who detect tax evasions poses a great threat, namely the threat of a law encouraging an apparatus—not yet formed in accordance with the new circumstances—that will abuse relations with people, the majority of whom want to earn money through their own work.

And one can hear dissatisfaction from all sides about slow authorization procedures, about the situation of the economy that does not permit the procurement of the necessary materials and tools, and about customers whose resources are too modest to afford quality goods and services. Hard-working people who want to do a job will not be able to make a fortune overnight from the type of activities permitted small-scale businesses, and these people should not be confused with the profiteers set to downright rob people interested in buying things at black-market prices.

There are clear regulations against profiteering, and there is no reason for the police to permit shady deals by people who shun work. [passage omitted]

Time will prove that, apart from a limited number of immoral profiteers who make money even without being authorized to do so or without paying taxes, very many of those courageous ones trying to set up their own businesses will encounter difficulties; some of them will even reach dead ends (not to mention the sad word, bankruptcy). Has anyone so far come up with tangible proposals on how to assist enterprising people when they encounter difficulties? Is it not more natural that the need for social protection should rank above the obsession with tax evasion?

This problem should be studied more thoroughly by all political groups involved in the election campaign from which the country hopefully expects as liberal and as stimulating measures for their creative activity as possible.

Since reference has been made to the fiscal system of the countries with a market-oriented economy, it is enough to examine the reports of the OECD on the subject to note that small enterprises and independent professionals are exempt from taxes since they are more vulnerable to given economic circumstances. As a matter of fact, the incipient stage of a productive activity is protected everywhere.

Thus, our state is also called upon to encourage initiative and work because ultimately it will collect increased public revenues from the prosperity of its citizens. We have to have incorruptible fiscal regulations, but they should not be overdone.

ALTERNATIVE Advocates Mixed Economy

AU0404154690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1327 GMT 4 Apr 90

["Economy and Policy"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 4/4/1990—It is not possible to pass on from a supercentralized to a market economy at once, as the politicians, who are running in the election campaign now demand, since a democratic economy does not emerge from the exclusivist character of the forms of property, especially private property. But, rather, from real political and economic pluralism, said Eugen Dijmarescu, doctor in economy, in a commentary in the magazine "ALTERNATIVE."

Seen from this angle, the Romanian public opinion's wish to find out about the future course of the national economy is justified: Will it be a planned or a market economy? In the author's opinion, these two categories do not exclude each other and he quotes the examples of Japan and France where an agency for economic planning and, respectively, a general secretariat of the plan operate as important and respected government organisms—which does not mean that the economies of the respective countries are not market economies. The planning or, rather, the economic programming these bodies work out, in the sense of orienting economic agents and consumers on a socioeconomic plane, does not run counter to market mechanisms. The absurd rigidity of a plan situated beyond realities—as was the case in the years of dictatorship—should be rejected but we must never return to the "childhood" of the market economy; we should concentrate on its current, modern values that stem from a correlation between social needs and the independent action of enterprises, which meets the interests of everyone and of the economic and social aggregate.

Market economy does not mean the existence of a single form of property—the private one; in the advanced Western countries there are public sectors, which are state-run, that boast an efficient activity. Free initiative and competition between the producers in the three forms of property—private, state and associative property—encourage the creativity and energy of everyone and provide for abundant commodities and the stability of prices. Unless we encourage economic pluralism, the author shows, we will persist in the paradoxical duality of a production of dubious quality for the home market and of an altogether different production for the foreign market, all while competitivity remains a mere wish. Competitivity can be successful in the home market without the existence of the monopolist positions of a certain form of property. In the market economy of any country, the levers of the economic policy, whereby conciliation is struck between the macroeconomic interests of society and the microeconomic interests of enterprises and consumers, are economic contracts, state orders, prices, wages, credits, interest rates, taxes, money and others.

Democracy in the economy should contribute to the development and consolidation of political democracy to which it should impart material consistency; and the only way to build it is by intertwining national interests with local or group interests.

The need for a market economy is clearly expressed in the platforms of the various political parties. However, it is a mere first step. The electorate should have a clear image of perspectives. Essentially, the Romanian economy will have to gain if reconstruction efforts focus on the need to secure the individual welfare, the author writes in conclusion.

Hungarian Youth Organizations Hold Congress

AU0104163990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1990—The proceedings of the first congress of the Union of Hungarian

Youth Organizations of Romania were held in Miercurea Ciuc, Harghita County (lying in central Romania). The forum was attended by delegates from 12 counties and from Bucharest City, as well as by a delegation of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania.

For three days the participants discussed problems related to the operational structures of the union, agreed on its leadership, and also nominated candidates for the future parliament. During the talks, the speakers showed that the major tasks of the union were representation of the interestes of the Hungarian youth in Romania, promotion of the specific of that minority, and palpable contributions to the democratization of the country. It was agreed that every territorial organization be autonomous.

The congress elected the union's management board and its executive bureau. Tobor Toto [spelling as received] from Timisoara—where the second congress will be held in autumn—was elected president of the union.

The debates also showed that in future the union would have to work more convincingly to eliminate and prevent inter-ethnic tension, to establish a spirit of tolerance and confidence among Romanians and Hungarians through a constant, sincere dialogue, the way action is being taken in Tirgu Mures, Cluj and Timisoara.

Democratic Party To Remain Independent

AU0404134490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1122 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 4/4/1990—At the end of talks with the other center parties, which suggested a possible convention on concerted activities in the election campaign and on a possible merger as a center party, the Constitutional Democratic Party declared itself independent. According to its political platform, the Constitutional Democratic Party will not merge with any other party. "We maintain our center position. We do not agree to extreme-rightist or extreme-leftist political activities, which are not beneficial for Romania's future, for its political stability, which we need at present, "Mr. Adrian Constantin, president of that party, said.

Parties Urged To Define Political Platforms

AU0504140090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0924 GMT 5 Apr 90

["Election Campaign: The Dangerous Silence"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 5/4/1990—In an article in its 5 April issue, "TINERETUL LIBER" notes the "unusual discretion" which characterizes all the political parties and groupings in the country now at the beginning of the election campaign, opining: This silence before the electorate means nothing else but an excessive preoccupation for setting up alliances, pacts or accords all pursuing the same goal: To take over power.

Underscoring the need for clear explanations of the political, economic and social platforms of the parties, the author of the article is of the opinion that "the parties' silence vis-a-vis the electorate means, if not defiance, at least their incapacity of passing from the sphere of general speculations and principles to that of palpable, viable solutions that can be applied to all the spheres of the economic and social life."

In conclusion, politicians are called upon to renounce the exercise or assimilation of political abilities, to break their silence and set forth as clear and tangible programmes as possible which the Romanian society needs at present.

New Transylvanian Party Presents Platform

AU0504182890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1456 GMT 5 Apr 90

["Parties Introduce Themselves—The National Union of Romanians in Transylvania"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 5/4/1990—Romania is a unitary and indivisible national state according to the political platform of this party, which rules out totalitarianism that can lead to political exclusivism, dictatorship and terror, says Mr. Alin Druga in an interview with newspaper "TINERETUL LIBER." This party favours political pluralism, it supports truly free elections and works for Romania's active neutrality; and it recognises the Romanians all over the world as being an active part of Romanian spirituality, the "Romanian Hearth" being the cradle of all Romanians.

Its aims are: to restructure the economy the basis of the market economy principle; to recognize and appreciate the unitary creativeness of workers, farmers and intellectuals; to decentralize the existing industrial enterprises and make them profitable by stimulating foreign capital investment and the establishment of joint enterprises as the prime task of industry, to make all villagers landholders; to promote free entrepreneurship in the spheres of services, trade and tourism.

The union stands for the conservation of the valuable traditions of Romanian school, all while promoting large-scale modernization of all its structures. School in the languages of ethnic minorities is part of the unitary Romanian instruction system. The state must guarantee tuition in the languages of the minorities at all levels—from preschool units up to high schools. This puts no obstacle to instruction in the official language of the Romanian state for children whose ethnic descent is not Romanian. As concerns vocational and technical schools, post-graduate classes and higher schools, they will be in Romanian. We strongly oppose the idea of administrative enclaves set on arbitrary criteria in the geographical area of Transylvania, the platform of the National Union of Romanians in Transylvania says.

Ministry Denies Treating Braia 'Brutally'

AU0404180490 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1635 GMT 4 Apr 90

["Law: Romania's Ministry of the Interior Makes a Few Points"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 4/4/1990—Details were given, at a press conference at Romania's Ministry of the Interior Wednesday 4 April, about Braia Doru Constantin's suspension of the right of stay in Romania. During his two trips to Romania, in January and February, he was shown to have engaged in provocations and to have incited Romanian citizens to disorder, to have slandered in public meetings the activity of state bodies such as the Army, the police while on duty. He also intentionally instigated to strikes, to street demonstrations so as to affect the rule of law and destabilize Romania politically. Furthermore, in a talk at the Ministry of National Defence, Braia Doru Constantin said that democracy could not be established in Romania unless one million persons were exterminated. It was strongly denied that the said Braia Doru Constantin was allegedly treated brutally by the police while enforcing the order of withdrawal of the right of stay in Romania, as he said in interviews with the BBC and Free Europe radio stations.

Any state, it was shown, has the sovereign right to judge whether it was opportune or not to have in its territory a stateless person, as is the case of Braia Doru Constantin, and similar measures were taken in similar cases also by other states against people who, by their activity disturbed the rule of law and brought prejudice to the interests of the state.

Trial of Ceausescu's Brother Andruta Continues

AU0504210290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1821 GMT 5 Apr 90

["General Ceausescu Andruta Nicolae's Trial"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 5/4/1990—The trial continued in Bucharest of Ceausescu Andruta Nicolae, former Ministry of the Interior Training School commander, on charges of aggravated murder, instigation to unfulfilled genocide, attempted murder and failure to observe arms and ammunition dispositions.

The prosecution heard witnesses— most of them cadets and officers of the school of which the defendant was the head, who had been brought to Bucharest to repress the mass revolt against the dictatorship—confirmed part of the charges in the indictment. Several testimonies show that the defendant ordered both the cadets and other troops around the Intercontinental Hotel to open fire on demonstrators. There were witnesses who said they had seen the accused discharging his pistol into groups of demonstrators near him. The hearing of witnesses continues. The next session was set for friday 6 April.

Foreign Trade Minister on Ties With EEC

AU0404095690 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 28 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Foreign Trade Minister Alexandru Margaritescu by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "The Common Market Wants To Expand Ties With Romania"]

[Text] [ADEVARUL] Mr. Minister, you were recently in Belgium, where you conducted talks with the EEC Joint Commission, the European Parliament, members of the Belgian Government, and various businessmen. What was the purpose of all these talks?

[Margaritescu] The purpose of this visit lies in Romania's basic concern with placing its relations with the EEC on new bases. At the same time, we wanted to give impetus to our economic relations with Belgium, which, although it belongs to the category of small and medium-sized countries, has an important participation in the international trade, being among the first countries in the world from the viewpoint of business volume per capita. The talks held there had another goal as well; now, after the visit, I can say that we did well to establish this direct contact with our possible partners. We realized that the people we talked to also wanted to hear about our future plans and the political and economic situation in our country from authorized sources. Therefore, I presented details about the measures taken by the new state power structures to democratize Romania's socioeconomic life and I emphasized the irreversible character of the revolution.

[ADEVARUL] What was the reaction of your hosts?

[Margaritescu] It was a very positive reaction, particularly since they received conflicting information from other sources. In the same context, I would like to point out the need for and usefulness of more efficient dissemination abroad of information concerning the legislative measures taken by our country to democratize the political and economic life and to pave the road for a secure and advantageous market economy, both for us and for our partners abroad. Therefore, I want to point out the great service done to us by ADEVARUL when it published, in a special edition, the decree-law on certain measures to attract foreign capital investments in Romania, a document translated in English, French, and German.

[ADEVARUL] Can you give us details about the prospects of our country's economic relations with the Common Market?

[Margaritescu] At the economic level, we asked for: larger access of Romanian products to the markets of EEC members, both through measures of liberalization and by increasing export quotas; the speedy start of talks on concluding a new agreement on trade and economic and commercial cooperation between Romania and the EEC; assistance for the process of economic restructuring in our country, through projects and programs of technical aid and assistance from the "Group of 24" developed countries; better customs preferences for our country; and so forth. In short, we want our country to enjoy the same kind of treatment currently enjoyed by certain countries from Central and East Europe that are undergoing a process of democratization of their economic and political life.

[ADEVARUL] What were the results of your visit, and how do you assess them?

[Margaritescu] To begin with, I would like to say that we obtained an increase in the export quotas for certain industrial products (electrical measurement and control devices, glassware, ceramics, bearings, chemical products, and so forth) granted us at the ninth session of the Joint Romania-EEC Commission. Then, we discussed the possibility of further examining other Romanian requests that could not be satisfied immediately. On the other hand, the EEC Commission showed its willingness to start negotiations with Romania as soon as possible, so that the agreement on trade and economic and commercial cooperation between the two sides can be concluded by the end of the first semester of this year.

In connection with the "Group of 24" assistance and projects for the restructuring of the Romanian economy, the EEC Commission decided to send a delegation of experts to Romania next April in order to examine the projects we suggested with the Romanian experts. These projects will then be submitted to the approval of the "Group of 24" ministerial session scheduled for 6 June 1990. The management representatives of the EEC Commission will also examine and solve our request concerning better general customs preferences when working out their list of customs preferences for 1991. In order to facilitate technological contacts between the two sides and implement the Romanian projects of the "Group of 24," the EEC Commission management expressed its willingness to positively consider the opening of an information bureau in Bucharest in 1991. Therefore, we can say that the Common Market appears interested in expanding economic ties with Romania. However, we should not forget that future results depend on us alone, and on the correctness with which we will honor our commitments.

Foreign Aid From Dec 1989-Mar 1990

AU3103195990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0929 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 31/3/1990—Data received from the frontier stations, the Otopeni Airport and Constanta Port show that aid from 46 countries arrived here over December 1989-March 1990, consisting of 65,000 tons of goods including 42,000 tons food, 9,000 tons clothes, footwear and toys, 7,000 tons medicines and medical instruments, etc.

The aid sent with specified destination was dispatched from the frontier right to the respective localities and addresses, without further formalities. The aid without a specific destination was directed by the Secretariat of the Central Command mainly to the localities that were more severely affected during the revolution: Bucharest 10,100 tons of various goods, Timisoara and Sibiu 6,000 tons, Cluj 4,400 tons, Arad 3,500 tons, Brasov 3,300 tons, Hunedoara 2,800 tons, Oradea 2,500 tons, Tirgu Mures 3,800 tons, Alba Iulia 2,200 tons, Iasi 2,000 tons, Resita 1,560 tons, Ploiesti 1,500 tons, Pitesti 1,340 tons, Constanta 1,200 tons, Covasna 1,030 tons, Bacau 1,030 tons, Harghita 1,000 tons.

Through the care of the local bodies, the aid from abroad was distributed free (96-98 per cent) to homeless, wounded, creches and kindergartens, orphanages, schools for the handicapped, hospitals, houses for old people, needy families.

At present the granting of humanitarian aid continues in form of government actions (the U.S. 80 million dollars, Federal Germany 3,000 tons food, Switzerland 500 tons food, Italy 40 carloads of various goods, Spain 40-50 carloads of various goods, the Ukrainian Red Cross, the GDR tinned meat, France varia, etc.), of the EEC, WHO, UNESCO, UNDRO, as well as the actions "Romanian Villages", "United Towns", "Medecins Sans Frontieres", "Medecins du Monde", "Doctors of Europe" and other organizations, bodies, associations.

International Economic Cooperation Colloquium

AU0404134090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0901 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 4/3/1990—Satu Mare (northwestern Romania) is the venue of an international colloquium on the possibilities of cooperation in industry, agriculture and tourism with foreign companies for an accelerated introduction of modern technologies. This event, named "the economy of Satu Mare County in the world circuit," is attended by representatives of enterprises from the machine building, light and food industries, wood processing and construction materials industries in the county as well as by representatives of specialized companies in Austria, Czechoslovakia, People's China, the GDR, West Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

* Program of 'Party for a New Society'

90BA0022D Bucharest DEMOCRATIA in Romanian 12 Mar 90 pp 3, 4

[Unattributed article: "Platform-Program of the Romanian Party for a New Society"]

[Text] 1) The Romanian Party for a New Society [RPANS] declares itself a party of national reconciliation and of political and ideological tolerance, rallying all the democratic and patriotic forces that want to support the present plaform with a view to building a new and prosperous Romania whose fundamental objective will be to raise the well-being of the Romanian nation and to protect and assert individual rights and liberties. The

Revolution of 22 December 1989, accomplished through the sacrifice of the new generation, paved the way for Romania to rejoin the civilized world and for centering all political, economic, and social efforts on the individual, as a human being free in all his manifestations and who deserves to enjoy all the rights that humanity can offer, at the best level of material and cultural civilization, akin to our fellows in the most developed countries.

2) The RPANS believes that the major problem in the process of achieving national reconciliation is to leave behind the painful legacy of the ceausescu [lower case as published] dictatorship and to overcome in a civilized manner all the sequels of totalitarianism; we trust that, after the punishment of those most guilty of genocide, all the country's citizens will sincerely and efficiently embark upon the path of the new democracy that is achieved in conditions of complete freedom. Our party's motto is that "ALL THE GOOD VOICES AND ALL THE VALUABLE ASSETS" be engaged in rebuilding the country, without any discrimination.

3) In building Romania's present and future, the RPANS proceeds from the scientific conclusion that a new society must be planned according to all the characteristics of the postindustrial era concerning the organization of economic, political, and social activities, rejecting isolationism and widely opening up the country and each citizen's life to all the achievements of a modern, democratic world. The RPANS categorically states: Neither the "East" nor the "West" are obligatory! Today more than ever before, Romania needs the best that has been accumulated by both social systems of the 20th century; however, whatever the experience adopted, it must be filtered through the specific Romanian characteristics. Independence, dignity, reason, and adoption of any asset, regardless of its origin, in keeping with our ancestral traditions and land—this is what our people need at these crucial moments in their lives!

4) The entire political, economic, and social life must be based on the country's Constitution. We are in favor of organizing a state of the law—for the separation of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers—for the perfect application of justice and for equally enforcing the law for all the citizens, without any discrimination. The state form should be the republic, and the name of the country the REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA.

5) The head of state is the president of Romania, elected by the people through direct, secret, and universal ballot for a single term. The president may be a candidate and may be reelected for a second term only if he wins at least 60 percent of the votes.

6) All political activities and propaganda are forbidden in state institutions, the Army, the police, and the judicial system.

7) Proceeding from the need to achieve a broad democracy, the RPANS speaks out for a truly developed pluralism, in which all the good voices can be heard and all the valuable assets can shine forth in a dialogue and in a civilized confrontation and opposition, based on mutual respect; our party will firmly act against any form of extremism, vindictiveness, and anticultural spirit, so that the dictatorship of one party, which inflicted such immense damage on Romania, cannot be repeated, regardless of who and in what form was trying to once again promote it.

8) The RPANS firmly speaks out against any actions that, willingly or unwillingly, may lead to confrontation among various categories of citizens, particularly between workers and intellectuals or among various nationalities. No group may consider itself superior to other groups of citizens. General benefits and material or cultural light come from all those who work and live in Romania. The Romanian people, regardless of their work or nationality, are one and indivisible, and all the citizens have a right to equal respect in our society.

9) Equality of rights among all citizens will be guaranteed by law in Romania; the national minorities will be granted real opportunities to cultivate their own language and culture, according to their wishes and without any constraint, in conditions of harmonious relations with all the Romanian people.

10) The RPANS categorically rejects any form of political extremism, be it right or left-wing.

11) Freedom of circulation of ideas and persons, of opinion, of access to the press, and of philosophical and religious convictions will be guaranteed and all censorship will be eliminated, with the exception of fascist, chauvinistic, and racist views and actions that go against human dignity and the interests of the Romanian people.

12) The state bodies will ensure that the free trade unions exercise their mission to protect the interests of the various social and professional categories of people. The RPANS unconditionally upholds the right to protest and to strike, in accordance with the law, which will be based on the best international democratic experiences—prior announcement of each demonstration, respect for the place where it is held and for social property, and care that the respective actions affect as little as possible the rights of other citizens and order in the society.

13) To permit the economic recovery of the country and to achieve real well-being for the people, The RPANS speaks out for a mixed economy—state, cooperative, and private—for an efficient and proportionate division between the three sectors, and for basing the entire economic system on the principles of a market economy. Privatization is an objective necessity that must be mainly channeled toward small industry, trade, services, and tourism, where the best opportunities exist for utilizing private initiative. The transition to a new configuration must be gradual rather than abrupt, so as to avoid instability and ensure production growth rather than regression. Throughout the economy, free initiative

and competition will be promoted through every available means, without, however, barring group organization and intiatives. Steps will be taken to fully utilize the great economic potential created through the work of the people in towns and villages, with a view to restoring the nation's faith in its own creative forces and in its capacity to produce material and cultural assets on a par with the developed countries. As a rule, domestic raw materials will leave the country only in the form of high quality products. The RPANS rejects the achievement of industrial progress by selling Romanian economic units to foreign firms as being uneconomical and unpatriotic. In view of the fact that Romania is a solvent country, without debts, steps will be taken to promote intensive cooperation with other countries and foreign investors, particularly by establishing mixed companies, with a reasonable division of shares and preserving our national sovereignty and our right to have the last word in our own country. Incentives will be encouraged for foreigners investing in less developed regions and fields, particularly in power installations. Foreign firms will be encouraged to reinvest in Romania some of the profits made, with a view to developing new technologies and training highly specialized Romanian cadres.

14) In the agricultural sector, the RPANS is in favor of utilizing all our traditions; the final objective of all changes will be to consolidate peasants' farms, for the benefit of the rural population and the entire society. The forms of ownership must be selected in accordance with the essential goal of the entire economy: to increase, in this case, the agricultural output and individual and collective incomes. The peasantry will be allowed to freely choose in each locality and unit. The RPANS is in favor of state subsidies of the agriculture, on the pattern of the best examples to be found in the world. To attract labor forces to agriculture, the RPANS speaks out for legislating the right of all the citizens, commuters, intellectuals, and other citizens, including urban residents, to own or lease land in the country. Any citizen may own a plot of land and a house in the country or in the mountains, for which a special policy of organization and development will be hammered out. Steps will be taken to appropriate and organize processing facilities for agricultural produce by the producing units or families. The RPANS will take measures to ensure the complete freedom of individual or collective agricultural producers to sell their products on the market at advantageous prices. Steps will be taken to revitalize the cultural, moral, and economic values of the Romanian village and of rural civilization as repositories of the Romanian people's most valuable traditions.

15) We urge the organization of consistent measures concerning economic activities that affect the environment and our life resources, and we demand the implementation of a program to preserve the ecological balance.

16) One of the fundamental objectives of the RPANS is to develop science, culture, and education. Steps will be taken to create the best possible conditions to promote the activities of scientists, educators, and men of culture, through state subsidies designed to ensure free education for all children and students and to finance research and art institutes. The old method of assimilation will be repealed in the area of research and priority will be given to original research, the only kind that can capitalize on the creative capabilities of the Romanian people. In the area of culture we will ensure that all the rules of the old ideology are eliminated and that a truly free framework is created for intellectual creators in all areas. While militating for a national culture widely open to all authentic values, the RPANS is opposed to any practice of cultural colonialism that may preempt the free assertion of the creative genius of the Romanian people.

17) The RPANS will guarantee freedom of faith and religion for all the citizens.

18) At the same time, in view of the fact that we are now at the end of the second and toward the beginning of the third millenium, the RPANS also believes that we should reject superstition and assert the principles and achievements of modern science in our society.

19) The RPANS will take every necessary measure to protect and fully assert women in social life, to ensure and allocate allowances and leave for women with small children, on a par with the developed countries.

20) The RPANS particularly values the young generation. While encouraging the youth and offering them opportunities to actively participate in the country's politics and to freely express their views, we will ensure the necessary conditions to cultivate their respect for the country, the family, their teachers, and the moral qualities that belong to the culture and civilization of each citizen. Conditions will be ensured especially for young people to come into contact with great world science and technology through tourism, mass media, scholarships abroad, etc.

21) The RPANS will pay special attention to social issues. To encourage work and creativity, the party is against any egalitarian policy; each person will be rewarded in keeping with the results he obtains. At the same time, we want to avoid the creation of major differences in wealth among the various social categories. Steps will be taken to prevent unemployment; temporarily unemployed people will be allocated 50 percent of the salary they had when they lost their job for a period of three months, and assistance will be provided to help them find work in their profession. The salary policy will take into account the inflation spiral by ensuring a reasonable balance between incomes and the rate of depreciation of the national currency. The RPANS is in favor of maintaining the existing method of calculating rent for state-owned housing in keeping with the incomes of the families living in them, and of expanding the state's obligations concerning the maintenance and modernization of its buildings. Steps will be taken to award one month of paid holiday annually for all employees, free health care, and for securing the best

drugs in the world for our citizens. Special programs will be devised to ensure a dignified life for senior citizens, minors, and disadvantaged persons.

22) In view of the fact that Romania is going through a very complex period, determined by the transition from a totalitarian to a democratic system, the RPANS believes that the main decision stemming from this change and concerning the Romanian people's future, particularly in the economy and regarding the social and state organization, should be decided by the nation through a referendum.

23) The RPANS believes that the range of human rights must include all the material and spiritual freedoms and liberties and rejects any internal or external restrictions. The human being must be viewed and protected in his totality in accordance with his needs and aspirations.

24) The RPANS carries out a policy supportive and protective of Romanian interests everywhere. For this purpose, it will act to strengthen ties with Romanians in all other countries, to foster rapprochement with them, and to persuade them to become Romania's friends and supporters in the world.

25) The RPANS is in favor of and will act to promote a broad cooperation, without any discrimination, between Romania and the other states, so that everything possible can be done to ensure peace and understanding in the world and the progress of all the nations, within exchanges on which our country will embark as an equal partner, so that the Romanian flag can proudly shine among the national emblems of the most civilized countries.

26) The RPANS believes that the achievement of the objectives of this platform-program will allow us to build a modern Romania as the embodiment of all the values of the modern world.

* Tirgu Mures Solidarity Meeting in Bucharest

90BA0022B Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 23 Mar 90 pp 2, 3

[Text] Protest demonstrations continued in Bucharest yesterday against the violence in Transylvania. Afterwards, on Wednesday, Bucharest University students marched on the central boulevards and the workers of the Bucharest Heavy Machinery Enterprise, Aerofina, Pipera, and 23 August Plants organized their own demonstration; on Thursday afternoon came the turn of the students of the Politechnical Institute. However, aside from the protest character of the gathering, the intention of the organizers was to create a bridge for Romanian-Hungarian reconciliation. Consequently, they invited some of their colleagues from the Tirgu Mures Institute of Medicine and Pharmacology and Mr. Sandor Szylaghi, representative of the Hungarian Democratic Union, as well as Professor Alexandru Porteanu of the Nicolae Iorga Institute of Historical Studies. Among the other personalities invited were Mr. Victor Birsan of the Group for Social Dialogue and Mr. Constantin Dumitrescu, deputy chairman of the Association of Former Political Prisoners. But they could not all speak. A certain group did its "duty" and preempted the dialogue. Who were they? Whom did they represent? And after all, what did they want? The mystery remained profound to the end. One thing was certain: They were not students! But let us not get ahead of ourselves.

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 1300. There was some delay due to the fact that "student punctuality" is a rather bizarre notion. Taking advantage of this change in schedule, ADEVARUL's reporter mingled among those who had managed to gather on the stand at the appointed time. Naturally, the talk flowed automatically. The first conclusions were: Almost all those present had learned about the events in Tirgu Mures only from the report of the French television team that was broadcast on Wednesday on Bucharest television. What were they hoping? To find out more. Diana Galan, a chemistry student: "We want to know the truth. We want to know what happened there. We must remain calm, have patience, and find out what the Hungarians want. They may want some rights. We must talk, and if it turns out that they are entitled to those rights, they should be given them. In any event, the situation as it is now, is unacceptable. Violence does not do any good to anyone." Catalin Florescu, transportation student: "We want the whole world to know that we did not come here in hatred. We don't want to fight, we want to talk." One group, gathered around Professor Basarab Guzun, looks lost. The professor gives them courage. They are Hungarian students of the Politechnical Institute. Here they are in the minority. I asked them what pained them. "That slogan!" they said. I look; I can't believe my eyes and I feel that something is beginning to hurt me, too. Somewhere, still on the fringes for the time being, over the heads of our future intellectuals, a sign says: "The Hungarians Are the Killers." I make a beeline for that spot. I get there. The first shock is that I cannot see the eyes of the people I try to talk to. They're wearing sunglasses with black lenses, I'd say almost opaque. I introduce myself and ask them to do likewise. They wouldn't dream of it. After all, who am I to ask them for their names, they ask, poking each other in the ribs. I feel that unless I get out of there in the very immediate future, I won't be doing well, even in the literal sense. I leave, intending to keep an eye on them throughout the demonstration. Which shouldn't be difficult since they will undoubtedly be the heroes. I get up on the "stand" to be close to the speakers. From here one can see very well, it's a prime spot. The meeting begins. One after the other, students and guests take the microphone. Many beautiful words are uttered. No one wants violence. Everyone condemns it. We need to talk. Once in a while blasts of vehemence rise into the air. The "black lenses" group, easily identified, is now at the center of the participants. An efficient strategy, since they are now holding center stage. The sign with "The Hungarians Are the Killers" is waved like a battle flag. Some others have joined it: "Hungarians, Don't Forget, in Romania You

Are Transients," and "Unity not Hunity." Absolutely authentic. On behalf of the organizers, Andrea Rosculet, a engineering student, explains that there can be no dialogue in such conditions and asks people to take down the signs that "add oil to the fire." She is of course booed. The representative of the Group for Social Dialogue, Mr. Victor Birsan, cannot talk as long as inflammatory placards are up. "Never mind," come shouts from beneath, "let the next one come up!" And the next one does. It is Mr. Szylaghi. He doesn't get to say too much. What cheek! Many of those present want to actually hear him. Many had in fact come for that precise purpose. But the "vigilantes" are alert. They make more noise than 1,000. There is even a loudspeaker now, God knows from where. Someone yells totally out of context: "Bessarabia." No one can understand anything any longer. One student, who had come specially from Tirgu Mures, then one of the organizers, take the microphone and distance themselves from the "black lenses." Once again they say that the meeting should have been a bridge over pain. Few listen. And even if they did, students are civilized people, they could not nor do they want to start a fist fight with the imposters. So the latter can do their thing untroubled. The meeting is over. There is a news conference. Disillusion reigns supreme. If even here it was not possible to create a climate propicious to dialogue, then where? There is an outpouring of questions, all of them sad. I never would have thought that questions could be so sad. And, to forestall your question, I will tell you that I don't know who the "black lenses" were. It was impossible to find out. Even the organizers failed. What was one to do, call the police? For what? Nevertheless, who were they? I don't know, but it seems to me that I had seen them before. In Cluj, in Bucharest—here, to be frank, several times—and in many other places. Everywhere where another piece of our humanity was lost, overshadowing our good faith.

* Data on Unemployment Assistance Provided

90BA0022C Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 23 Mar 90 p 3

[Interview with Victor Dragoiu, deputy director of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, by Ilie Stefan; place and date not given: "Do You Want To Be Unemployed?"]

[Text] [ADEVARUL] One of the major socioeconomic problems in our society is unemployment. What prospects will open up in the coming months for those without a job?

[Dragoiu] Currently there are about 50,000 unemployed registered in Bucharest and in the various counties. Also, difficulties are expected in providing jobs for high school students who will graduate this year. In view of this reality, serious efforts are being made to establish new socioeconomic measures to allocate unemployment pay and to find work for the unemployed. These measures have been clearly defined and will soon become law. This will help regulate the material assistance that will be granted to persons of working age who are not holding down a job for reasons outside themselves. This category will include school graduates who failed to find a job three months after graduation and persons who were laid off for objective reasons independent of their will. In other words, able bodied persons between 16-55 years of age for women and 16-60 years of age for men, who have applied for work through regional labor exchanges.

Unemployment aid will not be granted to persons who receive any kind of social pension, who were not employed before, and who live in rural environments, as well as urban residents who were not employed before but who have arable land or other sources of income verified by financial or other competent bodies."

[ADEVARUL] Is the period for which unemployment assistance is granted restricted by any factors?

[Dragoiu] Unemployment pay is unconditional for the first three months. Then we intend to establish a vocational training system (training and retraining classes) for trades required in the economy, after which graduates will be assigned to work and employed. Consequently, after the first three months, unemployment pay can continue for another six months, which is the length of the training courses. The unemployment pay is, however, forfeited if a person refuses to accept a job in his trade or in the trade for which he was retrained while being unemployed, or if he refuses to go to training or retraining courses. I want to also specify that while on the dole, people will preserve their legal rights concerning children allowances, health care, and, according to case, registration for disability pension. At the same time, the period of unemployment assistance is taken into account for the purposes of length of service, and the right to continuity in the same enterprise is preserved.

[ADEVARUL] From what funds will unemployment assistance be paid?

[Dragoiu] Both state and private enterprises, and employers will contribute certain payments to the unemployment social assistance system. Similarly, privately employed persons who want to participate in this form of social welfare can also contribute to it. Naturally, trade union, civic, and philantropic organizations can also contribute.

As we can see, these measures are very humane; their purpose is, in parallel to granting social assistance to people who cannot find work for objective reasons, to allow them to join some other socioeconomic activity. This, however, depends primarily on whether we succeed in creating a healthy economy.

Austrian Chancellor Arrives for Visit

LD0404221390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2022 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, April 4 (TANJUG)—Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitz arrived in Belgrade tonight on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

The talks between Vranitzky and Markovic, which begin tomorrow [5 April], will focus on strengthening of bilateral coopration, promotion of relations between Yugoslavia and the Free Trade Association of which Austria is a member, the situation in Europe, the CSCE process and regional cooperation.

Suppport for Nation's Reforms

LD0504221790 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1420 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—Austria is giving strong support to the program of reforms in Yugoslavia, to its results so far, as well as to Premier Markovic personally, Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky stated after the end of today's first round of talks with Federal Executive Council [FEC] President Ante Markovic.

Chancellor Vranitzky, who began an official three-day visit to Yugoslavia on the evening of 4 April, stressed in his talks with Austrian and Yugoslav journalists that "Austria is following the reforms in Yugoslavia with great attention and it is interested in their reaching a successful conclusion. We are starting from the need for good and stable political and economic solutions in Yugoslavia, which is very important for entry into the European integrations too. It is also important for Austria to support Yugoslavia in international organizations because we assume that we should count on Yugoslavia in the future as well, and we wish to cooperate with it as a whole," Vranitzky stressed. Replying to a question from Austrian television journalists on whether this means that Austria is interested in Yugoslavia only as a whole, the chancellor said that this should be understood in such a way.

The Austrian federal chancellor also stressed that Austria is eager to talk with "Yugoslavia, such an important and highly regarded neighbor" about the major revolutionary changes in Europe, when it is increasingly difficult to foresee what is going to happen in the future.

Replying to a question from an Austrian journalist about the outcome of the coming elections in Slovenia, FEC President Ante Markovic said that he did not rule out the possibility that in certain republics different political forces might form their governments. However, he expressed his conviction that even if "relatively speaking, right-wing forces" won in some place, the present government would get a majority of votes in all the republics in the elections for the Yugoslav parliament that should take place by the end of the year. "Today all the indicators show that this government is supported by all the republics, in some of them even by an imposing 95 per cent", Markovic said.

Replying to a question regarding the election situation in Slovenia, Premier Markovic said that it was a part of the normal process of democratization, in which we are facing, as he put it, "the infantilism of political movements." According to Markovic, we in Yugoslavia are now finding ourselves in the phase of the "teething troubles" of democracy, but he also expressed his conviction that everything will fall into place. "After all, whoever wins in certain elections, is not only entitled to form a government, but also takes on accountability," Ante Markovic said.

In this morning's official talks between the two leaders, it was concluded that bilateral cooperation is now entering a new, higher quality phase, which is facilitating a bigger influx of capital into Yugoslavia and wider possibilities of joint investments. In connection with this they discussed the readiness of Austria to invest capital in the construction of main roads in our country.

Markovic and Vranitzky also agreed that the cooperation between banks in the two countries should be improved. They particularly discussed environmental protection, and in this connection the Krsko nuclear power station was mentioned as a problem by the Austrian side. Both sides will form a joint working group that will carry out preparations for signing a Yugoslav-Austrian agreement on environmental protection.

Markovic Toasts Vranitsky

LD0504225890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1539 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 5 apr (TANJUG)—Ante Markovic, president of the Federal Executive Council, gave a formal luncheon today in honor of Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who is on a three-day official visit to Yugoslavia since 4 April. On this occasion, the host and his guest exchanged toasts.

Greeting the Austrian chancellor and addressing him as "eminent statesman and proven friend of Yugoslavia," Ante Markovic expressed satisfaction in his toast at the fact that relations between the two countries were increasingly better. In this connection, Prime Minister Markovic stressed that the economic reforms in Yugoslavia opened up new prospects for the integration of the economies of the two countries in various fields, mentioning the important development of cooperation in transport, such as the construction of a tunnel through the Karavanke mountain chain and the Sentilj-Zagreb motorway, cooperation among the Danube region countries, within the Alpe-Jadran community, as well as the inclusion of Yugoslavia in activities in connection with the 1995 Vienna-Budapest exhibition.

As a special link between Yugoslavia and Austria, Markovic mentioned Yugoslav workers in Austria, whose social status has been considerably improved recently, as well as the Slovene and Croat minorities, as the most vital element in bringing the two countries' peoples closer together.

Recalling that Chancellor Vranitzky was visiting Yugoslavia at a time when changes to the entire system were under way, Ante Markovic stressed that he highly valued the Austrian chancellor's support for our reforms. "We also highly value your support for the promotion of Yugoslavia-EFTA [European Free Trade Association] relations," said Markovic, pointing out that "we created the necessary conditions for our full membership in EFTA." In Markovic's words, Austria could offer significant help in changing te structure of the Yugoslav economy and in its inclusion in the European integration processes, which is certainly in Austria's interest.

Proceeding from the fact that Austria and Yugoslavia have close views on the most important international issues, Ante Markovic underlined cooperation between the two countries within the group of neutral and nonaligned European countries in consolidating the CSCE process and in creating new structures for European security and cooperation. Stressing that changes in Europe are of vital importance for the future, Premier Markovic noted the mutual interest—which is being manifested more and more—in overcoming the barriers and in building a common European home through closer cooperation, in which process human rights and dignity should occupy the key position.

The Nonaligned Movement, of which Yugoslavia is currently the chairman, actively contributes to the general process of detente, stressed Ante Markovic. In our assessment, detente cannot yield any results if it does not extend to world economic trends, taking into account North-South relations, added Markovic, and mentioned the problem of debts and the protection of the environment. [passage omitted]

Markovic Meets with EC's Matutes in Belgrade

LD0504202590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1032 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, April 5 (TANJUG)—Relations between Yugoslavia and the European Community (EC) and activities being undetaken by the two sides on the promotion of their cooperation were the main subject of today's talks between Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic and Abel Matutes, member of the Commission of the EC, who is visiting Yugoslavia at the invitation of the Yugoslav Government.

Particular mention was made of contents of the future closer cooperation between Yugoslavia and the EC by way of association, trade relations, cooperation in the field of traffic and the third financial protocol.

Markovic also answered Matutes's questions about Yugoslavia's economic and political reforms.

Drnovsek Meets Matutes

LD0504230990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1658 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—SFRY Presidency President Janez Drnovsek today received EC commission member Abel Matutes, who is visiting our country at the invitation of federal Foreign Affairs Secretary Budimir Loncar. The talks covered Yugoslav-EC relations.

Matutes noted the interest of the EC in intensive cooperation with all European countries, especially with Central and East European countries, including our country. He stressed in particular the successful cooperation between Yugoslavia and the EC in the past 10 years. He voiced the view that Yugoslavia's associate membership in the EC would stimulate new forms of cooperation in accordance with the level of the development and the needs of the Yugoslav economy.

President Drnovsek noted that Yugoslavia attaches significance to the European integration processes, which is important for our internal economic and socio-political development.

Federal Foreign Affairs Secretary Budimir Loncar attended the talks.

Further on Matutes Visit

LD0504231690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1823 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, April 5 (TANJUG)—The European Community (E.C.) policy toward Yugoslavia could in future be based on the expansion of financial cooperation, Yugoslavia's joining the new policy of affiliation (with the establishment of a free-trade zone) which E.C. plans for East European countries and [words indistinct] E.C. commissioner for Mediterranean countries, Abel Matutes stated in Belgrade today.

At a press conference held at the close of his official visit to Yugoslavia, with his host Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar, Matutes underlined that the new policy of [words indistinct] affiliation precludes not only financial support and a specific agreement on a free trade zone, but a political dialogue, too.

Asked when Yugoslavia could establish a free trade zone with E.C., Matutes replied that he could not say anything definite at the moment because the issue has not been on the E.C. commission agenda. Speaking personally, he assessed that Yugoslavia, compared to other countries, has the biggest advantages for joining the new policy of affiliation to the E.C. He explained this by Yugoslavia's great experience in cooperation with E.C., the level of its productivity, experience in entrepreneurship, as well as the fact that Yugoslavia has already used some facilities from the community.

E.C. has always established relations at the government level and it will adhere to this practice in the future, too, Matutes said. Matutes added that a multi-party system and economic reform, stability and security of a country of a country as a whole, are conditions for the integration. He stated the conviction that Yugoslavia will persist in comprehensive reforms it has already undertaken.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar recalled the 10-year cooperation between Yugoslavia and E.C. and stressed that intensive talks have been underway for a year with [word indistinct] to update cooperation in keeping with changes in the world and europe, and in Yugoslavia especially, as well as make it more comprehensive and more oriented to higher forms.

Loncar stressed that the goal of economic and political reforms in Yugoslavia is to become part of European integration processes. All changes in Europe are a challenge both for E.C. and Yugoslavia. Political democratization and economic rationalization in Yugoslavia are part of overall changes in Europe, Eastern Europe, too, but in this Yugoslavia's place is specific, Loncar stressed.

Loncar underlined that relations between Yugoslavia and E.C. have always had a positive and simulating effect on Yugoslavia, it is therefore logical to expect that Yugoslav reforms in interdependence with European and E.C. trends, in particular, will be intensified.

Bulgaria To Remove SFRY Border Installations

LD0604013690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2301 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Sofia, April 5 (TANJUG)—The Bulgarian Government has decided to start the gradual removal of engineer-technical installations on its border with Yugoslavia as of tomorrow. [6 April]

The removal will first be conducted in the immediate vicinity of border crossing, inhabited places and agricultural areas, and later along the entire Bulgarian-Yugoslav border.

Under the ministerial council decision, the measure is brought in the spirit of international agreement and the final act of the Vienna CSCE meeting, and is the result of "dynamic changes and democratization which have been taking place in Bulgaria in the past few months."

Markovic Protests French Visa Requirement

LD0504100790 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2033 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, April 4 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic sent a letter to French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, saying he was convinced that the French Government would take into account the disapproval of the Yugoslav public and the way Yugoslav citizens would be affected by the announced steps in the visa system.

Markovic is also convinced that the French Government will take further steps so that the announced steps are not introduced, furthermore since France and Yugoslavia are linked by traditional friendship and mutual commitment to the freedom of circulation of people and ideas.

Paris recently announced the abolition of visas for citizens from East European countries, with the exception of Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

National Accord Coalition's News Conference

LD0404231390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1509 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Zagreb, 4 Apr (TANJUG)—At today's news conference in Zagreb, representatives of the Coalition of National Accord, consisting of 11 Croat parties, presented a proposed program for Croatia's economic development. The tenor of the orientation is a market economy and Croatia joining European economic trends, with or without Yugoslavia. [passage omitted: the program advocates variety of ownership, enterprenerial spirit, etc.] Later, coalition representative Slavko Goldstein voiced dissatisfaction with the attitude of Zagreb Television toward the Coalition of National Accord and presented the protest the coalition lodged with Zagreb Television and the republican Committee for the Supervision of the Elections. [passage omitted: Zagreb TV did not carry out due coverage of the coalition rally in Split on 31 March]

Coalition representatives also denied rumors that mostly, at least as presented in the public information media, concern statements of top people of the Croat Democratic Union [Hrvatska Demokrtaska Zajednica - HDZ]

Thus, Ivan Cesar denied that the Croat Christian Democratic Party had joined the HDZ bloc. Jure Sonje, Croat Peasant Party vice chairman, denied that his party had joined the HDZ bloc. Stressing that it is a "pure lie" that the Croat Democratic Party had joined "the Tudjman [HDZ chairman] bloc," Marko Veselica assessed that the HDZ leadership had begun to use the method of disqualifications, proclaimed itself the most Croat party, and seized the role of the arbitrator in Croatia. [passage omitted: further similar attacks on the HDZ]

Working Version of Amendments Noted

AU0504134190

[Editorial Report] Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian on 4 April on page 5 carries an approximately 4,000-word text of the working version of amendments to the SFRY Constitution under the title: "For a Faster Reform, For Democratic Elections."

The text of amendments is preceded by a brief introduction that reads as follows:

"A working group of the Commission for Constitutional Questions of the SFRY Assembly yesterday presented the SFRY Assembly with a working version of draft amendments to the SFRY Constitution that will be discussed at the assembly session scheduled for 12 April.

"The freedom to organize into political groups and the pluralism of ownership, in which all forms of ownership would be equal, are some of the most important ordinances contained in the working version of the draft of amendments to the SFRY Constitution, one of the very few versions that has not so far been objected to. It is interesting to note that the working text contains 24 amendments and 27 alternatives.

"BORBA publishes the full working text of amendments to the federal Constitution that was drafted according to the conclusions of the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly that, proceeding from the initiative launched by the Federal Executive Council and other proposers, a draft of amendments to the federal Constitution be made."

Retail Prices Continue Downward Trend

AU0504144290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 4 Apr 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "How Prices Were Falling"]

[Text] The regular statistical calculation of inflation shows that retail prices in March (between 21 February and 21 March) rose 5.2 percent. Let us recall, the rate of inflation in February was 13.6 percent and in January as much as 41.5 percent.

The additional calculation of price raises show however that inflation was falling much faster from one month to another: in January (from 1 January to 31 January) retail prices rose 17.3 percent; in February 8.4 percent (in relation to the previous month); and in March 2.6 percent. Let us recall that not all that long before this trend, Yugoslavia registered the record rise in the rate of inflation in its history: In November, retail prices rose 58.8 percent in relation to October prices.

Information on Republics' Cooperation Requested

LD0604022290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1413 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, 5 April (TANJUG)—At its session today, chaired by Janez Drnovsek, the SFRY Presidency requested that the FEC [Federal Executive Council] comprehensively inform the SFRY Presidency about the current state of affairs and the problems of economic relations and cooperation between the Serbian and Slovenian Socialist Republics [SR] and their consequences. Particularly, [the Presidency wants information] about what it [the FEC] has undertaken regarding this and what it will do to ensure the unhindered functioning of the united Yugoslav market and the implementation of constitutionality and legislation.

The SFRY Presidency has also considered a report on the procedure, in the course of which decisions were to be made by the SFRY Assembly and the assemblies of the socialist republics and the socialist autonomous provinces on the proposal it sent to the SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber on 25 January of this year, to begin passing the new SFRY constitution.

To date, the proposal has been met with a positive reply by the assemblies of the Socialist Republics of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The other assemblies' replies are yet to come.

The SFRY Presidency, in the statement, stressed the need, while proceeding toward the new constitution, to have the amendments to the existing constitution adopted as soon as possible, as proposed by the FEC, to provide for a constitutional basis for the current measures and the implementation of the economic and political reform.

Presidency Statement on Kadijevic Inspection

LD0604022890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1534 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—With assistance, federal National Defense Secretary Veljko Kadijevic today inspected, as stated by the Republican Committee for Information, the Yugoslav People's Army units in Slovenia. This was part of a regular tour of inspection, which the federal secretary for national defense already completed in other military districts, where he met republican leaders.

"As is known, the Slovene Republic Presidency declined the invitation to take part in the type of talks that representatives of the Federal Secrtariat for National Defense held in other republics. On this occasion, Slovene Presidency President Janez Stanovnik, and Dusan Sinigoj, president of the Slovene Assembly Executive Council, received federal National Defense Secretary Veljko Kadijevic in a courtesy visit," the statement notes.

New Cases of Poisoning Reported in Kosovo

AU0504203790

[Editorial Report] Pristina Domestic Service in Albanian at 1700 GMT on 5 April continues to report on the situation in various communes, on activities of official party and government bodies, and those of the alternative groups in Kosovo.

New cases of poisoning are reported from Djakovica, where four Albanian pupils are said to have asked for treatment at the local hospital. In Pristina, 11 cases of pupils asking for treatment are reported: eight from one school and three from another school.

Pristina Faculty Finds No Poisoning Evidence

LD0604035190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1938 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Pristina, April 5 (TANJUG)—A team of experts of the Neuropsychiatric Clinic of the Pristina Faculty of Medicine has determined that ethnic Albanian patients treated for alleged poisoning had no traces or indications of any poisoning know clinical symptomatology. [sentence as received]

The Pristina Neuropsychiatric Clinic team of experts based their opinion after viewing and analysing all the clinical symptoms of more than 200 allegedly poisoned patients.

A statement issued by the Pristina Neuropsychiatric Clinic said that all members of the team of experts, except one ethnic Albanian doctor who did not express his opinion, shared this view.

Medical experts of other profiles have arrived at the same conclusion.

French Team's Samples From Kosovo Stolen

AU0504103290 Ljubljana DELO in Slovene 31 Mar 90 p 1

[Slava Partlic report: "Thieves Lured by 'Material' From Kosovo"]

[Text] Ljubljana, 30 Mar—Among the foreigners who recently visited Kosovo to see for themselves the mass poisoning that officially, of course, does not exist, there was a mission of the International Federation for Human Rights. It was led by Fabienne Lenoir, and it included Dr. Bernard Benedetti, a French physician, and two British medical experts, Guyne Roberts and Dr. John Foram.

In the four days that they spent in Kosovo, the mission members collected much material on the unusual epidemic among the Kosovo youths, including some "tangible evidence" that could perhaps refute the official thesis about a mass pathopsychological occurrence in Kosovo.

The French portion of the delegation—Ms. Lenoir and Dr. Benedetti—stopped in Ljubljana on their way home on 30 March. Dr. Benedetti, a renowned expert on the effects of modern biochemical weapons, an expert who had been on equal or similar missions to Turkey, Iraq, Kurdistan, Angola, Afghanistan, and other places, wanted to discuss his professional opinions and assessments with some medical experts in Ljubljana. He partly succeeded. However, an unknown person (or persons?) came into his room at Hotel Lev and stole from his bag some vials and bottles, but left his money, his air ticket, and other valuables alone. Dr. Benedetti and Ms. Lenoir did not want to raise a scandal because of this unusual theft, for the simple reason that luckily, the second part of the delegation of the International Federation for Human Rights had in the meantime safely landed in London "with all their stuff." The bottles that attracted the unknown thief more than money included one containing some white "Kosovo" powder that Dr. Benedetti considered most suspicious....

Ms. Lenoir and Dr. Benedetti, of course, left for Paris immediately. The report of the mission—including results of the tests that will be performed in London and Paris institutes—will be available to the Yugoslav and world public next month.

Popovic on Future Development of Kosovo LC

LD0604015490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0744 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Pristina, 5 April (TANJUG)—By abiding by the current demands and the overall social reform, the Kosovo League of Communists [LC] will develop into a modern socialist-oriented political party capable of effective activities in the circumstances of a multiparty system.

Kosovo LC Presidium Secretary Lujobimir Popovic today spoke to journalists about the platform of such an LC; the platform will be discussed on 6 April by the Provincial Committee members. It should provide full equality to all citizens and the effective functioning of the market economy. Under such circumstances the LC will, Popovic noted, extend its support to all left-wing movements. It will, however, oppose all single-nation parties as well as those that show national intolerance and are committed to threatening the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and the Serbian Socialist Republic.

The transformation of the Kosovo Communists' Party should primarily facilitate the province's wide openness to the Republic of Serbia and the country as a whole. [passage omitted: Ljubomir Popovic says the Kosovo LC will probably be renamed the Kosovo LC-Party for Implementing Democratic Socialism. The party membership has shrunk over the past few months by about 20 percent, which accounts for 21,000 members.]

4 Ethnic Albanian Policemen Suspended

LD0504221590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1101 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Zubin Potok, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—In the public security department in the municipality of Zubin Potok, because of their irresponsible and passive attitude and suspicions about their participation and abetting the demonstrations of Albanian nationalists and separatists, policemen Bislim Ademi, Dadik Bajgora, Fadilj Hasani, and Dzemail Dibrani have been suspended. In fact, it is still not known which of them took down and tore to pieces the photograph of Slobodan Milosevic in the duty room of the police station in Zubin Potok. The investigation is under way.

New Kosovo Writers Association Founded

LD0504215890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1537 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Pristina, April 5 (TANJUG)—At the initiative of some thirty Kosovo writers of Serbian, Montenegrin and Muslim Nationality, a Writers Society of Kosovo and Metohija was founded today in Pristina as an independent social organization of writers of all nationalities and different literary-aesthetic orientations.

56 writers joined the Kosovo and Metohija Authors Society and Radoslav Stojanovic was elected the society president.

Explaining the decision to estbalish the society it was stressed that Serbian and Montenegrin writers resigned two years ago from the Presidency and the Assembly of Writers Association of Kosovo. At the time the public was informed that the members will dissassociate themselves from any activities until every form of Albanian national majorisation is eliminated from the Kosovo Writers Association and until organs are dismissed which had isolated the association and turned it into a single-nation Albanian Writers organisation.

A proposal was also adopted to proclaim illegal the work of the Kosovo Writers Association in the period since the resignation of Serbian and Montenegrin nationality writers.

Adem Demaqi on Kosovo Political Situation

LD0404154390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1449 GMT 4 Apr 90

[Text] Belgrade, April 4 (TANJUG)—The only way to bring about equality of the ethnic Albanians is for Serbia's Province of Kosovo to obtain the status of a republic within the Yugoslav federation, founder of a revolutionary movement for the unification of Albania Adem Demaqi says in an interview to the Belgrade daily VECERNJE NOVOSTI.

Demaqi, known as ideologist of Albanian separatism, was convicted in 1958 and has spent a total of 15 years in Yugoslav jails.

Still serving his last sentence, Demaqi, 54, has never been to Albania, but he claims that democratic processes are under way in the neighbouring country and that a multiparty system is being introduced there. This was taking place within Albania's only party of labour because—he assesses—"it is not burdened with dogmatic-parasitic structures as are the parties in the countries of real socialism."

On the current political situation in Kosovo, Demaqi says that the present Serbian leadership wants to ensure greater rights for its people in Kosovo at the expense of the rights of ethnic Albanians.

He maintains that ethnic Albanians, who make up about 90 per cent of the province's population, should take over responsibility for the fate of Kosovo Serbs and Montenegrins.

A predominant role in the Yugoslav Federation of Serbs—who are the most numerous nation—would mean outvoting and hegemonism, while a leading role in Kosovo of ethnic Albanians due to their numerical strength would mean national equality, holds Demaqi.

This charismatic leader and champion of the "Albanian cause" praises (?Stalin) for having allegedly prevented Yugoslavia from occupying Albania at the end of World War Two. Dwelling on an alleged danger threatening ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia, he denies any violation of basic human and national rights of Kosovo Serbs and Montenegrins.

About 50,000 Serbs and Montenegrins have left Kosovo under pressure from Albanian separatists over the past ten years and about 200,000 since the end of World War Two.

Milosevic Inspects Army's Honor Guard

AU0504135890 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 29 Mar 90 pp 1,5

[Unattributed report: "Serbia's Republic Day"]

[Excerpt] On 28 March, at 1100, while the Yugoslav People's Army's orchestra was playing the national anthem "Hey Slavs," Socialist Republic of Serbia President Slobodan Milosevic laid a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier on the Mount Avala in honor of Serbia's Republic Day.

After laying the wreath, Slobodan Milosevic, to the accompaniment of the sounds of a festive march, inspected an honor guard of the Yugoslav People's Army on Avala. Signing the memorial book, the Serbian president wrote:

"Serbia is paying its respects to the unknown soldier on the first anniversary of its Republic Day, being proud of its past and sure of its future, which it has firmly taken into its own hands, finally and forever." [passage omitted]

Slovene Alliance Protests Kadijevic Visit

LD0604023890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1724 GMT5 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—The Slovene Socialist Alliance holds that today's visit to Slovenia by federal National Defense Secretary Veljko Kadijevic was not made at the right moment because the republic is on the eve of the elections. In this regard, the Socialist Alliance issued a special statement.

"We ask whether this is just a coincidence or whether there are some ulterior motives behind this.

"We suppose Slovene Republic representatives correctly correctly warned the Army general that at this moment conditions for his visit to our republic are not met. Veljko Kadijevic obviously ignored this and insisted on the visit. Naturally, he formally justifies it as a visit to the Yugoslav People's Army units in the 5th Army Distict.

"The Slovene Socialist Alliance protests against this resolutely because the visit could obviously disturb the public and could serve as a pretext for different interpretations and guessing," the socialist statement notes. It concludes, "the time immediately prior to the elections is not the right time for such visits."

Slovene Officials Say Kadijevic Visit 'Tactless'

LD0504023390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1850 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 5 April (TANJUG)—During this afternoon's Radio Ljubljana program, candidates for the Slovene Presidency president, answering listeners' questions, assessed among other things the visit of Army General Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for national defense, to Slovenia.

Dr. Martin Demsar sees the visit as a demonstration of power and a pressure on Slovenia. Dr. Joze Pucnik thinks the visit has a political background; he assesses it as tactless and at the very least lacking in political instincts. Milan Kucan has similar views, assessing the visit as an undemocratic act, though personally he does not attach a great deal of importance to this act.

Slovenia's Pucnik Assails Opponent Ribicic

LD0504223690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0845 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—Slovenian presidential candidate Dr. Joze Pucnik has replied to the open letter from Dr. Ciril Ribicic, assessing the letter "as the characteristic consequence of the special state that the single-party system has managed to maintain for a full 45 years. The feeling of the single-party system leaders that we despise them is more than exaggerated. In fact, it is their undemocratic acts that we do not like," Dr. Pucnik writes.

This Demos [Democratic Opposition of Slovenia] candidate continues in his reply to Dr. Ribicic: "We can hardly tolerate the situation in which Slovenians are afraid of their own politicians, who have been acting like soldiers of the revolution for the past 45 years. We can hardly tolerate the situation in which we Slovenes are afraid of our own police, our own army. We cannot accept that those soldiers of the revolution, the Slovene politicians, are afraid of their own people," Dr. Pucnik says, voicing his electoral criticisms. He continues: "This, of course, is why we want to change this hidebound, sick state of affairs." He notes that he does not understand the logic of the accusations that blame him for the torn and soiled posters of Ribicic and Kucan. At least nobody is threatening me with imprisonment. I am against all forms of violence, including violating posters.... However, until we have developed sufficiently good manners, the tearing of posters will continue. I believe that it will take several years to normalize the unhappy situation in this area to the point where destroying posters will only be the usual delinquency of mischievous youth and nothing more.

Obviously using his letter for election propaganda and to attack the other candidates for president, or at least the most dangerous ones, Dr. Pucnik allegedly admits that he "does agree that the designers of the poster, which surprised Ciril Ribicic, showed in a designer fashion and rather undiplomatically that they have no respect for the leading international communists and that they have a lot more faith in the social democrats.

"I fully agree with them in this respect as well," Pucnik says, allowing himself also to compare "Slovene communism" and its leaders with what is labelled "Ceausescu."

"Therefore, the designers of the social democratic poster are indeed right," Pucnik concludes. In his reply to the open letter from Dr. Ciril Ribicic, he accuses all those who are unable to understand the message of the poster of being unable to understand democracy either.

Opposition Leader on Elections, Autonomy

AU0504111890 Vienna AZ in German 5 Apr 90 p 5

[Interview with Hubert Pozarnik, psychology professor at the Ljubljana psychiatric teaching hospital, Demos opposition alliance election campaign manager, and Slovene Democratic Alliance president, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given: "We do Not Want To Wait"]

[Excerpt] [AZ] What are the main issues of these first free elections?

[Pozarnik] The most important thing is the drafting of a new Slovene constitution that guarantees complete autonomy, sovereignty, an independent military, and an independent currency for our country.

[AZ] Does this mean that you want an independent Slovene state?

[Pozarnik] Yes, this is what we want. However, people must decide on this in a referendum. Only on the basis of a sovereign state are we willing to discuss a confederation with the other republics in Yugoslavia.

[AZ] How do you want to achieve this in specific terms?

[Pozarnik] There are two possibilities. It can either be achieved on the basis of an amendment to the Constitution, or we can build an independent state in the event of an aggression on the part of Belgrade by issuing a declaration of independence.

[AZ] So you want to follow the Lithuanian example?

[Pozarnik] No, Lithuania used to be a sovereign state, which Slovenia has never been. We have always been dominated by somebody. Now it is the Serbs who dominate us. For us, the most important question is not how Belgrade would react to a declaration of independence, but how Europe would react.

[AZ] What are you doing to gain the confidence of European countries?

[Pozarnik] We hold talks and show courage. We cannot wait for the love of the superpowers. Our striving for autonomy is actually in line with efforts to create a new Europe. We can also make a sizable contribution: a favorable geographic situation and well-educated people.

[AZ] Do you not see the possibility that Yugoslavia might open up as a whole, that it might become more democratic?

[Pozarnik] Yugoslavia has been in a crisis since 1918. It is ruled by the police and the Army. Changes in the political sphere do not mean anything.

[AZ] What do you mean by that?

[Pozarnik] There have always been expansionist tendencies in Serbia. Serbia has never practiced fraternity. We simply do not want to wait any longer. [passage omitted]

Slovene Parties Favor Yugoslav Confederation

LD0504195990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0001 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, April 4 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia as a confederation is the stand taken and election slogan of a majority of parties in the republic of Slovenia, northwestern Yugoslavia, in expectation of its multiparty parliamentary elections scheduled for April 8 this year.

Slovenia would like to be within a confederal Yugoslavia an economically and politically substantive state, representatives for several Slovenian parties pointed out at their press conference here today.

Slovenia is the first in Yugoslavia to "break the ice" with multiparty elections. In the Republic of Croatia, western Yugoslavia, elections will be held on April 22 while the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, central Yugoslavia, and the Republic of Macedonia, southeastern Yugoslavia, put their elections off for a year's time, explaining their postponement with the need to leave their parties time enough to constitute themselves.

Slovenia's strongest parties are the Socialist Alliance (Slovania's socialists), the League of Communists of Slovenia-Party of Democratic Reform, and the Demos (United Opposition).

Today, representatives of the majority of parties laid emphasis on Slovenia's wish to join Europe but, in their consideration, it is being held back by Yugoslavia from doing so as Yugoslavia is bound "not to stop falling back into socialist relapses for a long time yet."

In the opinion of the majority of Slovenia's parties, the now federation [as received] costs Slovenia too much. i.e. its outlays for the federal treasury are too high. Slovenia sets aside only for the Yugoslav Army some $700 million a year, leaders of Slovenia's parties claim.

The majority of Slovenia's parties has also had sharp words to say about Yugoslav Premier Ante Markovic's economic program, claiming that it has made possible to funnel capital from Slovenia's liquid banks into the Republic of Serbia's illiquid [word indistinct]. The same (?circles) find fault with Markovic's maintaining the dinar's convertibility [words indistinct] high foreign exchange reserves.

In Slovenia, only the Progressive People's Party and the Alliance for Preserving the Citizens [word indistinct] give mention to federation and united Yugoslavia. The two parties' representatives wondered today who guarantees that Slovenia, if it become a substantive state, will not raise a barbed wire fence along it border with Croatia and will not become a sinister police state.

Slovenia's socialist alliance got transformed a short time ago and added Slovenia's socialists qualification to its name, and drew attention today to "unacceptable behaviour" shown by some parties while electioneering. Involved is their cautioning voters that those who worked together with the present institutions of authorities may not be bearers of democratic changes. In doing so, the socialists refer to their merits for a democratic trend in Slovenia.

Slovenian Health Service Workers Strike

LD0504220190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1517 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Ljubljana, April 5 (TANJUG)—Some 45 thousand health and medical staffs in the Yugoslav republic of Slovenia today staged an one-hour protest strike. The strike was organised by the Trade union and its aim was to draw the attention of the Slovenian public to an incorrect attitude to their requests and to demand that institutions and the republican minister for health and social welfare and other officials be called to account.

In negotiations the government has shown a very low level of political culture and inability to carry out fundamental reforms, as well as eliminate causes for the lengthy crisis in the public health service, it was stated in a public statement issued by the Health and Medical Workers Trade Union. Therefore, the Slovenian health and medical staffs have decided to stage a work stoppage, but only when all other possibilities were exhausted.

The health and medical staffs of Slovenia today repeated their demands made last June, i.e. that the social and economic position of health service and social welfare be regulated, that the price of the work of health and medical staffs be determined and that a modern system of health and social welfare and new legislature be established.

In the course of the strike the ethics of the medical profession were observed, so that all patients who needed help were treated.

Korosec Discusses 'Confrontations'

AU0404185890 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE (SEDAM DANA Supplement) in Serbo-Croatian 25 Mar 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Stefan Korosec, former secretary of the Central Committee Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, by Rajko Zivkovic; place and date not given: "Deserters Are in Play Again"]

[Excerpts] Even though Stefan Korosec has not yet been relieved of his duties as secretary of the Central Committee [CC] Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY], he has not been attending the Presidium sessions since the interruption of the 14th LCY Congress, and has not been invited to the recent consultations and meetings in the Presidium. He is not sure whether he will be appointed ambassador to Portugal either, but has recently been intensively preparing for elections in Slovenia, where he is standing as a candidate for the Sociopolitical Chamber of the Slovene Assembly. A robust man from Trbovlje (51 years old), the former parachutist, runner, pilot (still flying occasionally), glider pilot, teacher, psychologist, economist, and businessman was quiet for two months after the interruption of the 14th congress and did not want to make any statements or predictions. In this interview, given to the press after the interruption of the congress, he says that many things have shown that he was right for walking out from the congress with other Slovene delegates.

Talking about his departure from the congress he said:

"The interruption in the congress must be linked to some events in 1988 and to the preparations for the so-called ideological plenum that was held in April of that year. The discussions about the concept of that plenum were very sharp. We were wondering how to carry out the mobilization in the League of Communists: through differentiation or through a positive program. We opted for a positive program. This is why I view the interruption in the 14th congress in that context. By opting for what we did we in fact created preconditions for the First Conference of the LCY at which we presented the ideological foundations for a comprehensive reform of the economic and political systems and the transformation of the LCY."

[Zivkovic] Do you think that the move you made at that time was going to lead one day to the break with the party's old politics and practice, something that, as one can now see, happened at the 14th congress.

[Korosec] We made a very important move between the ideological plenum and the First Conference. Let us only mention the market valuation of production. One republic immediately called this a counterrevolution, but later adopted it in its Constitution as something normal. The process that ensued and that was characterized by numerous confrontations had two main features: It revealed incompetence and inability that were used to conceal real problems in society....

[Zivkovic] Where was the confrontation stronger, in the Presidium or the CC of the LCY?

[Korosec] In the Presidium. I proposed as far back as 5 December of last year that the entire Presidium tender its resignation. This was not done. However, one must not negatively assess all confrontations because some of them contributed to the denouement and opened up the processes that we face today. We started the congress without having conducted the necessary general political preparations, and what happened at the congress was therefore a shock for both Yugoslavia and the LCY. The interruption caused havoc everywhere, but it has speeded up some processes in all LC organizations. Otherwise, in the last two years we resolved all political problems with shocks. It would be nice if this was the last one. [passage omitted]

[Zivkovic] At the congress you behaved more as a Slovene than the secretary of the LCY CC Presidium.

[Korosec] When I realized that the three things were not being adopted and that even some members of the working Presidium voted against the amendments, I went through personal trauma. However, I am, first of all, a Slovene, and because I am a Slovene, I am a Yugoslav. I thought and still think that our walkout would sober up people and make them aware that we all basically want to retain this Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

[Zivkovic] Did you go to the consultative talks and meetings in the LCY CC Presidium? Were you invited? Did you talk to Pancevski? Who attended the LCY CC Presidium sessions from Slovenia?

[Korosec] Nobody participated in the work of the Presidium after the 14th congress. I spoke to Pancevski on one or two occasions immediately after the interruption of the congress. During the talks I proposed a different approach to the future cooperation in the LCY.

I proposed to Pancevski that a so-called group of eight (one from each republic and province) be formed and that they propose how the LCY should continue to function. Meanwhile new ideas emerged in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Slovenia, and Montenegro which means that the organization can no longer be built from the top but from the bottom upward. So, I have not attended any session of the LCY CC Presidium.

[Zivkovic] This week a commission of the LCY CC Presidium proposed that the LCY CC Presidium resign. What is your comment about this?

[Korosec] I think that the Presidium no longer exists. This Presidium has no feeling for what the times bring with them. New questions today require new approaches and this Presidium is not even following these questions. It is constantly going backward. I therefore think that an eight-member group should be set up....[passage omitted]

[Zivkovic] Things on the Slovene political scene are happening very fast. Your party and some other parties, such as those united into Demos, holds identical views on many issues. In view of that, do the Communists think that they will win at the elections? Will Kucan win?

[Korosec] Our aim is to achieve a European quality of life. However, the concrete election aim of the LC is to ensure a normal transition from a system in which it was the ruling party to the system of political pluralism. This must not lead to confrontations or possible chaos in Slovenia or Yugoslavia.

How will we fare at the elections? There are two important things for us. The first is to ensure social protection, and this means that the people want to have a better life and jobs. The other thing is that the majority of the Slovenes do not want sudden turbulences and changes. We Communists are responsible for what we have today and for what we will have in the future. In this kind of situation, it is difficult to predict who will win. This will depend on the electorate's mood and on other factors on the election day itself, such as problems in paying out personal incomes, liquidations.... As far Kucan as is concerned, I think that he will win and hope that the Communists will win the majority of votes.

[Zivkovic] What do you think, will Albanians in Slovenia vote for Kucan?

[Korosec] I cannot predict this, but I think that they will. [passage omitted]

[Zivkovic] How do you interpret Demos' announcement that it will seek full independence of the future Slovene state from which you will need a passport if you want to go to the south?

[Korosec] This view has not been thoroughly discussed in Demos itself. They did not consider possible consequences that would arise in the spheres of both the economy and politics since our market is a joint market and has numerous economic advantages that could not be exploited under the conditions of complementariness. I could mention many examples. Let us consider the example of Adria Airways, which flies passengers from all over Europe. It could not therefore operate only on 34 kilometers within Slovenia. [passage omitted]

[The following passage appears boxed within the body of the item]

Attack on Reputation]

[Zivkovic] While you were still the LCY CC Presidium secretary, you were proposed as ambassador to Portugal. After you walked out from the congress with the rest of the Slovene delegation, many people said that you do not enjoy the trust of all of the country. How do you comment on some views that your appointment would be a reward for desertion?

[Korosec] To me, work has always meant a challenge. When I was young, I was a professional pilot. Then I spent a third of my working life in the business world and another third in politics. Sometime in the middle of last year, the Socialist Republic of Slovenia Presidency proposed me as ambassador to the United States. There were other candidates too. The Presidency was unanimous in that I meet all the conditions for this ambassadorial post, but it was impossible for me to go because of the preparations for the congress. Before the congress, it was also proposed that I be appointed ambassador to Portugal. This procedure, as far as I know, is finalized. Now the question has arisen as to whether I should go in view of the fact that I walked out from the 14th congress. In other words, my reputations has been questioned.

I must say that so far I have fared very well in all elections, wherever I was nominated for something. I was proposed as president of the LCY CC Presidium, to perform this duty until the end of the year, and then to go to Portugal. And now this question is being linked to my allegiance to Yugoslavism. However, all these attacks on me are completely unfounded. So, the fourth part of my work life was going to be diplomacy, but even if this does not happen I will not see it as a tragedy. The procedure has been formally concluded. Everybody knows this, but POLITIKA has tendentiously been repeating some of its assessments of my moral character and similar things every day. It is linking this to the interruption of the congress ignoring the fact that all those ideas that were not accepted and were the reason for me leaving the congress are now being accepted. Despite all this, it is even calling me a deserter.

Croatian Democratic Bloc Founded

LD0604045490 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2019 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Zagreb, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—Six parties announced tonight that the Croat Democratic Bloc was founded this evening. Its program is summed up in the orientation that it is meant for "true Croat democratic parties and individuals." The following parties form this bloc: the Croat Democratic Union, [hrvatska demokratska zajednica], the Croat Peasant Party [hrvatska seljacka partija], that is, its wing led by Ivan Zvonimir Cicak, the Croat Party [hrvtaska partija], the Croat Party of Justice [hrvatska partija pravda], the Democratic Christian Party [demodkratska hrscanska stranka], and the Democratic Action of Croatia [demokratska akcija hrvatske]. [passage omitted: the bloc attacks the coalition of national accord for its allegedly dirty campaign.]

Croat Democratic Union leader Franjo Tudjman defined the Croat Democratic Bloc as "truly Croat and democratic; it is the manifestation of the free and sovereign Croatia and is the annulment of all agreements that impoverished Croatia and demographically endanger it." For the bloc, party Political Secretary Neven Jurica said, it is "a national bloc, historically rooted, that regards liberal-minded compromises as something alien to it."

Croat Coalition Advertisement Published

AU0504154890

[Editorial Report] Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian on 28 March on page 8 carries a full-page advertisement of the Coalition of National Understanding [Koalicija Narodnog Sporazuma].

The following text is carried at the top of the page under the bold-faced banner "For National Understanding and Prosperity":

"The failure of the one-party system and of Bolshevist ideology in general has set off an avalanche of democratic processes in the countries of 'real socialism'—processes that have suddenly been changing Europe and in which the military blocs had already started thawing and cooperation was replacing confrontation. This thorough transformation makes it possible today, in the time of scientific-technological revolution and data processing, to solve the basic problems of disarmament, environmental protection, human rights, national subjugation, and poverty. The unification of European peoples on the principles of political pluralism, mutual respect, and solidarity will help the progress of the world of peace, freedom, and prosperity.

"If Yugoslavia continues to lag a great deal behind the quick democratic steps that are being made all around it, that will not only make it impossible for it to find the way out of the crisis, but will also further weaken its position in the world and its successful cooperation with the developed West. The historic project of Marxism-Leninism is falling apart everywhere, so maintaining a political monopoly would be pushing us backward, and some militant myths have in fact already been fomenting irrational passions and threatening civil war. Regardless of whether it is rising in ideological, religious, or national direction, totalitarianism threatens all peoples, including that which imposed it, and presents an obstacle to rational and humane solutions to accumulated difficulties. Confronted with these looming calamities among the awakened hopes in Europe, we support a thorough democratic transformation that would ensure human rights, original sovereignty to Croatia and all other republics in Yugoslavia, economic and cultural progress, and the opportunity to join the developed Europe and the world. As much as these changes should be thorough, we want them to be carried out in a peaceful way, with rational moves, and by the will of the people. The scheduled Assembly elections have a decisive importance at this crucial moment.

"We demand the abolition of the laws that ban or hamper the expression of personal opinions and the association of citizens in order to promote their views or programs. We also demand that all political prisoners be released and that all political trials be halted, as well as that the state of emergency in Kosovo be lifted. Considering that population movements went on for centuries, particularly westward and northward resulting from Turkish conquests, one people's historical right most often clashes with the internationally recognized ethnic right to a homeland and causes expansion in all its fury.

"We advocate the establishment of the rule of law that will guarantee all citizens their personal security, the security of their property, and a tolerant discussion of current disputes. Yugoslavia can survive only if it rests upon democratic foundations, with a consistent respect for national equality, with joint projects being agreed upon by consensus, while any imposition of hegemony and totalitarianism under any banner will end in defeat and downfall. We are calling upon the Army and the police to refrain from any use of force against the people and to take off the party symbols. Because the modern market economy is offering a way out from the existential crisis, it is most important to first accept the rules of behavior and economic laws ingrained in the efficient world economy, and this primarily means equality between all forms of ownership and the security of all forms of property, as well as fair competition among different entrepreneurs. This separation from the consensus economy with its countless failed investments, covered losses, and the squeezing of more profitable enterprises should be done as painlessly as possible and without major social tremors. Mixed enterprises with developed foreign partners can be very helpful to us in increasing work productivity and market exchange. The strengthening of small economies and the reconstruction of factories built under statist pressure are possible only in a new atmosphere in which personal dignity, creativity, and reasonable agreement would be respected.

"We want urgent measures to be carried out with a view to halting the fatal 'brain drain' and having many people who are temporarily working abroad come back, as well as having Croatia rely in its further development on its wide diaspora. The moves and regulations that have separated Croatian political emigrants from their country must be abolished immediately. Our lagging behind in the sphere of science and technology considerably hampers our overall social development and the possibilities to join big world projects. Now that ideological dogmatism, party paternalism, and negative selection have crippled educational, scientific, artistic, health and other activities so much, it is a matter of life and death for all of us to start working together with a view to pulling Croatia out of the imposed provincialism and come closer to world progress. Our rich humanistic tradition and many modern works serve as a token that we will achieve something. Political pluralism cannot be reduced to parties alone; it also demands the political activity of cultural institutions, society, and individual people. The modern civilization is being composed of a large number of institutions that further the development of the whole of society whereby their responsibility for a better future has been increasing.

"We harbor the greatest confidence in the freely expressed will of the people at the April elections and at all later elections. The Coalition of National Understanding is doing its best to help ensure that the deputies, committee members, and other representatives elected are capable of and resolute in carrying out a thorough transformation of society, but do so in peace and tolerance. In the darkness of aggressive totalitarianisms that have pushed the world to the verge of destruction, let humanist principles lead us into a united, peace-loving, and rich world!

"We extend our support to the Coalition of National Understanding in the belief that its political principles and dignity guarantee a consistent democratic transformation of Croatia, along with the respect for the efforts of that kind in other republic and aspirations in Europe and the world toward more humane horizons."

The text is followed by the name of the Coalition displayed in color at the center of the page.

A list of about 250 names appears at the bottom of the page and includes Srecko Bijelic, Professor Dr. Ivan Cesar, Prof. Dr. Savka Dapcevic-Kucar, Slavko Goldstein, Dragutin Haramija, Prof. Dr. Ivan Supek, Miko Tripalo, and Dr. Antun Vujic.

Bosnian Plenum Delegates Criticized

AU0504092590 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 1 Apr 90 p 8

[M. Caric commentary: "How To Resist the Demands of the 'North'"]

[Text] Sarajevo, 31 Mar—Leaving a session of the Central Committee [CC] of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] is no longer as dramatic as it was during the 14th Extraordinary Congress, and the latest activities of the Bosnia-Hercegovina delegation have been seen in a different way in Sarajevo too. Nijaz Durakovic and Ivan Brigic tried to explain their actions at the last session of the LCY Central Committee to journalists in Sarajevo that same evening, but they did this quite sloppily and unconvincingly.

Both of them pointed out the (il)legitimacy of the LCY Central Committee to the journalists, continually stressing the crucial significance of the delegations and republics that had not attended, so that the journalists asked at one point: And what about the membership?

Why Did They Not Ask the Membership

The journalist from NOVA MAKEDONIJA did not even receive a reply to his question of why the League of Communists [LC] of Bosnia-Hercegovina is trying so hard to win negative points among the public. The membership is not at the focus of Durakovic's and Brigic's attention—this is already obvious—because if it were, it would have been consulted at least superficially and beforehand on what they should do at the LCY Central Committee in a situation that could have been predicted. They did not even ask the CC of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which should be making a decision on the actions of its leadership on 7 April.

The justification that the Slovenes and Croats had not gone to the plenum and this had surprised the delegation of Bosnia-Hercegovina has nothing to do with the conduct of serious and mature people. Even the "argument" put forward by Ivan Brigic, who asked if Petar Skrundic was a legitimate member and in whose name he was speaking, also did not seem serious. This is because, the same questions could also be asked of Durakovic and Brigic—and the membership of Bosnia-Hercegovina has in fact been doing this in the last few days. On whose behalf were they speaking at the session and on whose behalf did they leave it?

The session of the LCY CC was not attended by six of a total 18 delegates from Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Excessive Pressure From Ivica Racan

Even a few days ago, those who went to Belgrade wanted—or at least they were saying so in unofficial circles—the 14th Extraordinary Congress to continue or at least an attempt to be made to strengthen the "rest of the LCY." They did not, however, withstand the pressure later exerted, above all, by Ivica Racan, and by Ivan Brigic himself, who had attended the closed session of the LC of Croatia CC. Durakovic did not have the strength to resist the demands from the "North" or the courage to ask his membership what to do in this situation.

He did the same thing for the second time in the last three months: He very quickly returned to Sarajevo in order to explain why he had done what he had done, and this time he complained that someone had provoked him and he leveled his accusations at Sreten Djuric from Vojvodina. According to Durakovic, Djuric crudely defamed the president the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina CC, but he did not explain to journalists what this defamation consisted of. During the news conference with Nijaz Durakovic, one had another impression, that he had tried at all costs to find any reason for leaving the session of the LCY CC.

The first reactions in Bosnia-Hercegovina hint at possible divisions: Some members (Muslims and Croats) think that Durakovic and his team should not even have gone to the session of the LCY CC, which was still weak from the last federal congress, while others (Serbs) think that he should have made more effort so that the Yugoslav orientation of the LC could be preserved at least in most of Yugoslavia. As is well known, most of the latter are to be found in the Bosnian Krajina and a large part of Hercegovina, where the idea of Yugoslavism is still strong.

National-Communist Parties in Bosnia-Hercegovina

Hints of such divisions can also be seen in relations between the communal committees in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the CC Presidium of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina, which are becoming increasingly strained. Unfortunately, these divisions are appearing increasingly frequently along national lines, and in this regard Nijaz Durakovic's predictions are correct: He claims that the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina will very quickly become colored by nationalities.

A good example is the Communal Committee of Centar in Sarajevo, which is the largest in the republic with a membership of 24,000 and which has already made some moves with which the CC Presidium of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina does not agree. More precisely, Centar Communal Committee President Slobodan Nagradic states the opposite of Nijaz Durakovic when he says that "one can do without those who do not exist," while the CC president of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina continues to persistently demand that the session of the LCY CC be attended by the Slovene party, which no longer exists.

The members of the Centar committee think that the individual member and not a delegation is in fact the foundation of ideological work, and therefore the CC Presidium of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina should change its policy and be oriented more toward each member. The Communal Committee of the Centar LC are preparing party rallies and meetings in economic organizations while the members of the CC Presidium of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina are still thinking about whether to join in with this activity themselves.

The national coloring of the LC of Bosnia-Hercegovina is gradually intensifying instead of diminishing, and no one should be surprised if national communist parties are created in this republic. Nijaz Durakovic and Ivan Brigic are simply not doing enough to stop this process and to prevent the roaring national passions.

Vojvodina Presidency on Security Situation

LD0604040490 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1835 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Novi Sad, Apr 5 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav Province of Vojvodina Jugoslav Kosic, at today's session of the Presidency, said that not only the internal affairs bodies but also all the subjects involved should be called to account for the over [words indistinct] in security in the country as well as in the province of Kosovo.

The Vojvodina Presidency, at its today's debate on the protection of constitutional order and public security, favourably appraised the work of the internal affairs bodies last year and pointed out that these bodies' members from Vojvodina had given marked contribution to the settlement of the situation in the Kosovo Province.

Kostic mentioned that a fuller report would be sent also to the Presidency of Serbia, of which Vojvodina is part, and that the Yugoslav State Presidency would be urged to take all the steps necessary for the strengthening of security in the country.

He said that, in this reference, the questions of border crossings should also [words indistinct] hence also those that pertain to the crossings on the Yugoslav-Romanian and Yugoslav-Hungarian borders.

Macedonian Communists Reject LCY Letter

LD0504224990 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1717 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Text] Skopje, Apr 5 (TANJUG)—The leadership of the League of Communists of Macedonia (LCM) at its meeting here today very sharply worded its rejection of a letter that was sent out to membership last week by the "curtailed" Central Committee (CC) of the Federal communist party (LCY).

The presidency of the LCM CC assessed that "a group of members of the LCY CC," by addressing what it called the "sound forces," was intending to provoke "an anti-bureaucratic revolution" against the leaderships of those republican organizations of the League of Communists which had taken "wrong stands."

The LCY CC session last Friday [30 March]—which was not attended by representatives of the party organizations from Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia, and was left by those from Bosnia-Herzegovina—urged the membership to prevent a disintegration of what was once the country's sole and unchallenged political party.

The letter by an estimated 70 out of 165 members [words indistinct] CC (from Serbia and its two provinces, Montenegro, and the Yugoslav People's Army) was appraised by the leadership of Macedonian communists as accounting for both a conspiracy aimed at annulling the independence of the republican communist organizations and an invitation to create a new party.

It was also said at the LCM meeting today that an attempt had already been mnade in Kumanovo, 30 km north of Skopje, to organize a new communist party.

The LCM leadershp also held that the remaining part of the LCY CC, together with President Milan Pancevski (nominally a member of the Macedonian party), was insensitive to the latest developments in Yugoslavia and in its communist organization, and hence was preventing its transformation into a modern political party capable of fighting for democratic socialism.

Members of the LCM CC presidency concluded that Pancevski and his associated had lost their legitimacy and should either resign or be recalled.

Montenegro Social Democratic Party Formed

LD0504211990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0744 GMT 5 Apr 90

[Summary] Titograd, 5 Apr (TANJUG)—A Social Democratic Party of Montenegro was formed on 4 April in Titograd. The party will advocate European orientation, private entrepreneurship, and a democratic federation.

Democratic Party Program Criticizes Communists

AU0404213190 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 31 Mar 90 p 8

[A. Brkic report: "Democratic Party Presents Program"]

[Text] The series of program presentations by political parties began on 29 March with the Democratic Party presenting its program in the almost full great hall of the Youth Center in Belgrade. A party will present its program in the Youth Center every night (except Saturdays and Sundays) until the end of April. It was said last night that all political parties will be treated the same way. They will present their programs in alphabetical order. Each party will decide for itself which hall it will use to present its program.

The Democratic Party's program was presented by Dragoljub Micunovic, Kosta Cavoski, Aleksandar Petrovic, Radoslav Stojanovic, Zoran Djindjic, Djurdje Ninkovic, and Mirko Petrovic. It was said that since this party was founded two months ago, its membership has increased five times over, about 30 local committees have been set up, and the second edition of its newspaper, DEMOKRATIJA, was issued on 30 March. The Democratic Party now has around 4,000 members.

The Democratic Party's already well-known critical stands regarding the League of Communists and the present system generally were also voiced at the meeting.

After the discussion about the Democratic Party's program, the audience asked many questions connected with this party's work and future activities. Some comments were also made by the audience concerning the way in which the Democratic Party's program was presented since everything had mainly been reduced to criticism of the Communists.